

Cook County Hospital — The Truth Is Out

KEEP STRONG

November, 1979

Voices of Chicago's Communities

\$1.00

**An American
Worker Is
Injured
Every 5½
Seconds**

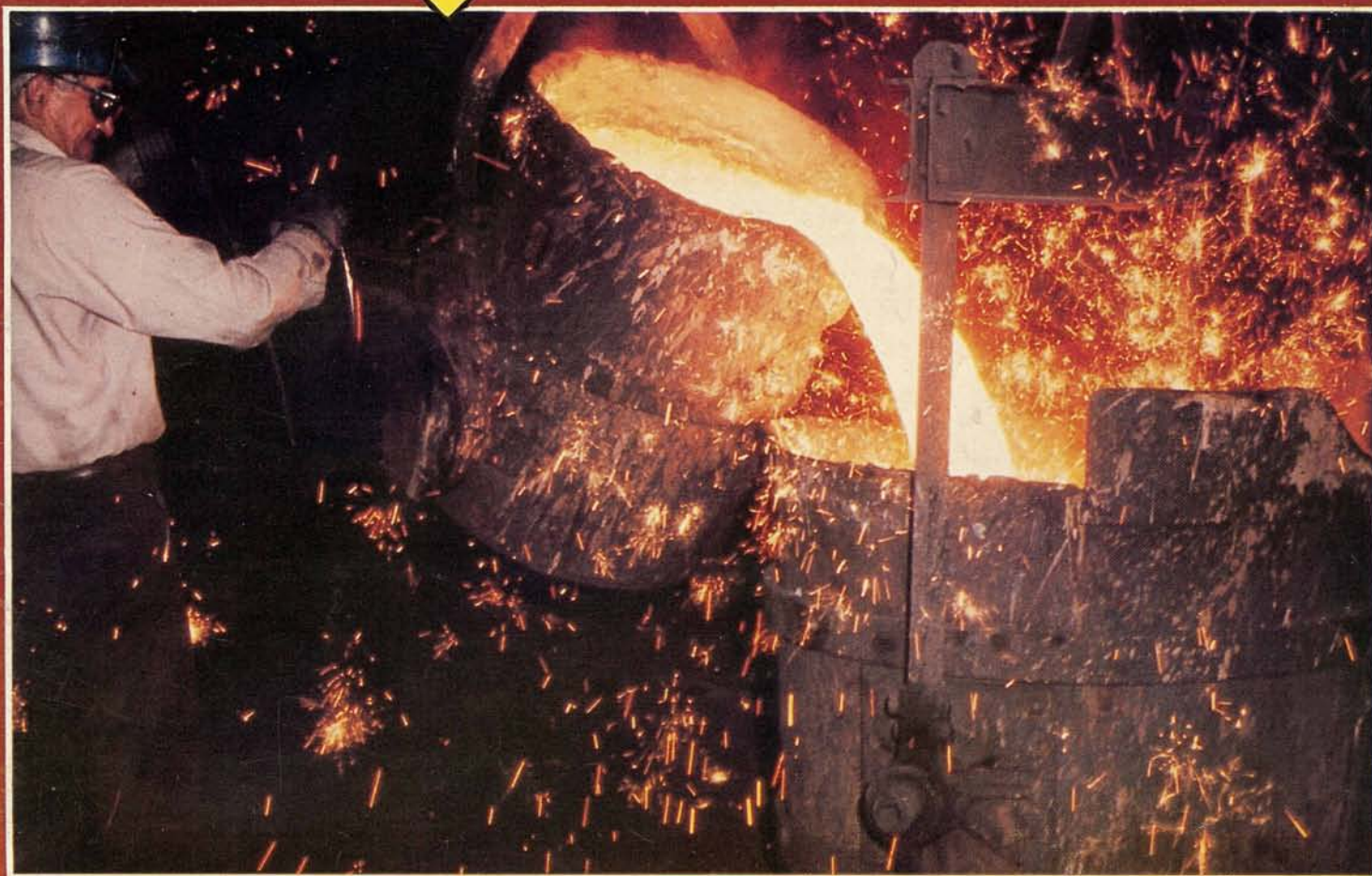
**A Special
Report,
Featuring 5
Case Histories
Looks Into....**

**DANGER
ON THE
JOB**

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**Westinghouse
in The Philippines**

**The Art of
Ralph Fasanella
and
Nathan Wright**



THIS MONTH IN



5 As the Supreme Court considers a worker's right to walk off a dangerous job, the movement for firmer regulations on job safety and health grows by thousands daily. A Keep Strong special report.



42 Cook County Hospital might be facing its final days. Who brought it to the edge and who is trying to push it over. Is there a place for public health care in "One Chicago"? The answers might surprise you.



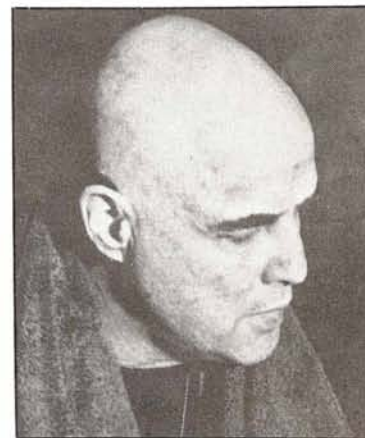
46 11 years in prison for a crime he did not commit have made this man an articulate spokesman for oppressed people and an artist respected across the country, "The Essence of Nathan Wright."



47 Ralph Fasanella's art spans three generations of life in America from the working man's point of view, "Painting the American Ball Game" and back cover.



55 Westinghouse has a billion dollar contract to build a nuclear generator in the Philippines. The equipment is defective, the money is borrowed, and the people are fighting back.



77 "Apocalypse Now" is a \$30 million effort to put the Vietnam war behind us. A Vietnam veteran reviews its strengths and weaknesses.

KEEP STRONG...

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From The Editor

Friends,

Scientists at NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) believe that 48 million Americans have been exposed to dangerous or deadly substances on the job. Chances are someone you know has a problem like this (page 5).

Those of you with a continuing interest in primary education should be sure to check out the education column. You didn't know the Board of Education has policies that restrict parents' involvement in their children's education.

We'd like to thank Nathan Wright and Ralph Fasanella for their time, their talents and their humanity (pages 46 and 47), and Jose Bracamonte for a clear and detailed piece on the highly distorted question of undocumented workers (page 65).

In the Phillipines, Westinghouse is using a ticket from the Marcos dictatorship to build a time bomb (page 55); in Puerto Rico the Navy has already dropped the bombs (page 71). In both cases, common people have organized and begun to resist and we can learn a great deal from them.

Welcome to Clotee McInnis, a respected community leader and an important addition to our writers collective (page 3) and to Fidel Castro (page 74) whose speech before the United Nations should be read and studied by every man, woman and child in this country.

Marc Zalkin, Acting Editor

Cover photo courtesy Occupational Health and Safety Administration

News and Letters From Our Readers

Ex-Coal Miner Seeks Help For Black Lung

Dear Sir:

I have been in the dust and pollution all of my life. I went into the mines when they were burning oil lamps and they were shooting coal with black powder, squibbs and sometimes they would shoot on the day shift.

We had to go into a place called the Air Course and would have to sit until the heat, dust and smoke cooled off. We had to go into rooms with 3 x 3 foot canvases dipped in tar to fan out the smoke and gas. We had to go into these rooms and wait until the smoke cleared away in order to go back and to be able to see the coal we were shoveling so we could begin to load the coal.

Sometimes in these rooms, it was damp and the men would catch a sickness known as Black Damp. Sometimes men would fall out and we would have to take them out of the room and put them on entry and fan them until they were conscious.

I became sick in 1926 and my first doctor was Dr. Cloyd, a company doctor at Peabody Coal Mines, and he sent me to my family doctor, whose name was Dr. Wilson.

When I was on relief in 1942, I was sent to Dr. Hepner. When I applied for Black Lung in 1968, he told me that they didn't keep records for that long. I was in the mines from 1916 until 1944. I was under the care of four different doctors in Danville, Illinois.

I came to Chicago in 1944. I was treated at the Post Graduate Clinic at 2400 South Dearborn in Chicago until 1950. I then went to a clinic at 95th and Cottage Grove called the Lewis Clinic and they are now closed.

I have been under the care of doctors since 1926 until this present day. I am still having the same problem. I have a spot between my 4th and 5th rib about the size of a fifty cent piece. I can touch it with my fingers and the whole

spot is continually sore. I keep a cold all the time and my whole side gets sore and I have to go to the doctor. I have cough drops, Vicks salve and anacin by my bed. I can't breathe sometimes at night.

I am sending you the information from 1916 until the present day of all the places that I worked over seven months....

When I went into the mines there were only three diseases a miner had and that was dropsy, consumption, asthma and die. The doctors told you nothing in those days but gave you some pills and sent you to your company doctor with a note and the company doctor gave you a note to take to your boss or you were laid off or fired.

I don't know which way to turn. I am still a sick man.

Sincerely yours,
Alfred White
Chicago, Illinois

The information you sent has been turned over to the Chicago Area Black Lung Association. Ed.

Tenant Wants Security Deposit Back

To Whom It May Concern,

On Saturday, September 22, 1979, I went to look at an apartment on 64th and Kedzie. The landlord, James Louagos was not there. His sister, Angie Economos, was. We liked the apartment and she said if we were interested to leave a deposit and if we would change our mind we could get the \$40 back. We tried calling Mr. Louagos for a few days at his office. He is a lawyer and his receptionist kept telling us he wasn't in. We left our name and phone number several times and he never returned our calls. During that time we were waiting for him to return our call, my husband went over to the apartment to find that exterminators were

there exterminating for roaches. All the other apartments had been exterminated in the past, but this was the first time they got in to exterminate apartment number 7. When we first looked at the apartment, we asked Mr. Louegos' sister if they had any bugs and she said no. Due to the fact that we later found out that the apartment was infested with roaches, my husband called Mr. Louagos and told him that we didn't want the apartment. He then informed my husband that he would not give us our \$40 deposit back. He told us that we should have let him know sooner. We would have let him know sooner, if they would have been honest with us from the start.

Just because Mr. James Louagos is a lawyer should not give him the right to take advantage of us. Please help me get my \$40 back. \$40 is a lot of money to us. In this situation you must understand that we are looking out for the well-being of our two-year-old daughter, and would not like to subject her to such living conditions.

It is hard for us to get in touch with them, I believe they are avoiding us.

Sincerely,
Denise Elworthy
Chicago, Ill.

Thank you for your letter. We referred it to our attorneys and someone from the Uptown People's Law Center has been in touch with you. Ed.

Inmate Reads KEEP STRONG For Neighborhood News

Hello,

First thing is I wanted to thank you people at Keep Strong for sending me the neighborhood magazine and I hope you will continue to do so until March when I come home. But I must tell you I was surprised to find only two articles pertaining to the "hood." It almost is

sad to see you expand so much in the advertising and stories beyond the boundaries of the neighborhood.

Even though I've been away for little more than a year I'm sure that of the many problems in and around the hood, few of those have been solved and there are so many who need your help and because of that need, I wish you would always remain first in their needs.

I'm only expressing my inner opinion because having lived there and knowing the people as I do, I find I've become very fond of them both. In fact my plans for myself when I come out include returning to the hood to live.

Anyway, once again thank you for the "Keep Strong" news and tell everyone to stay healthy and keep on pushing for the folks.

A Friend,
Guy Johnson #83868
Joliet, Illinois

Photo Prompts City Investigation Of Sewers

Dear Sir:

In your August, 1979 issue of "Keep Strong Magazine" a photograph of a flooded street was shown on page 41.

The Department of Sewers is deeply concerned about any City of Chicago street which has a drainage problem such as illustrated in that photo. Would you please give this Department the specific location and the date on which this flooding occurred so that a proper investigation can be made.

Very truly yours,
Edward A. Quigley
Commissioner
Department of Sewers

The 4600 block of N. Magnolia floods every time it rains. The picture in August KEEP STRONG was taken June 19, 1979. Readers — Commissioner Quigley's phone is 744-7050. Ed.

Roxbury Health Center — "Most Distinctive In The Country"

During the month of September I spent one week with my brother in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

During that stay, I visited the Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center (RCCHC) and, in my opinion, it is among the most distinctive health centers in the country.

I visited the clinic without any advance notice and was directed to the office of Mr. Ed Spencer. Mr. Spencer came out to greet me as I introduced myself. He is the Director of Operations and was happy to take me on a tour of the health center. Wow! What a tour it was.

Mr. Spencer explained that in November 1969 various groups within the Roxbury community had a vision of opening a comprehensive community health center for the residents of Roxbury. The organization chose Boston University Medical Center as their provider. During 1972 the founders of the clinic further demonstrated their dream, becoming an independent free-standing health center, funded by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. This, of course, had been a long struggle. The funding committee named a community board. Mr. Spencer talked about the achievements that had been made and explained that the personnel at RCCHC are fully committed and support the center's program goals in their delivery of comprehensive health care. Mr. Spencer, further explained that RCCHC is dedicated to equal opportunity employment, community involvement and quality administration. The doctors, nurses, social workers and nutritionists are all direct providers of health care. The center has community workers

who carry out most of the public relations activities and who are responsible for informing RCCHC staff and the governing board of all outside resources that can be beneficial to their clientele.

The following is a list of the many departments/programs/clinics already in progress at RCCHC and, of course, they are continuing to expand.

- Family Medicine
- Radiology
- Ambulatory Services
- Mental and Social Health Services
- Dental Care
- Laboratory
- Nutrition
- Pharmacy
- Medical Records
- Data Processing and Accounts Receivable
- Personnel Department
- Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic
- Sickle Cell Anemia Clinic
- Hypertension Clinic
- Adolescent and Patient Advocates
- Nursing Services

This was a most rewarding experience; it was so good to see people working with the same principles, externalizing the goals of the center and who were all eager to get the job done. The high consciousness and love exhibited by the staff at RCCHC was truly wonderful and I was left with a sincere appreciation of what can be done.

Clotee McInnis
Chicago, Illinois

Clotee McInnis is a member of the Uptown People's Community Health Center board and is running for reelection as a board member for Americans for Democratic Action (ADA).

EDITORIAL

Exxon, Chrysler, Sam and You

As the final weeks of the decade approach, Douglas Fraser takes his seat on the Board of Directors of Chrysler Corporation; the United Auto Workers, his union, gives up \$100 million in wages and benefits; and Chrysler sinks its hand deeper into the federal treasury ready to pull out \$800 million. Lee Iacocca (Chrysler Chairman) tells a Congressional committee, "If we don't get the money and Chrysler goes belly up, 600,000 jobs will go down."

Backed by a set of one-sided statistics, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce tells the federal government to "back off" on health regulations in the workplace. One out of every four workers will be exposed to a substance causing illness or death today but the Chamber of Commerce believes, "OSHA is not equipped to take an expanded role in the health field...cost and benefit data is suspect and the issues are more complex."

Exxon's third quarter profits rise to \$1.1 billion (100 percent increase over the third quarter of 1978), Atlantic Richfield and Standard Oil of Indiana report profit increases of 45 and 49 percent. Together the three companies made twice as much money in the last three months as the city of Chicago will spend for the whole year. The Chairman of Gulf Oil calls the giant profits, "good news for the nation." A pint sized wind-fall profits tax bounces around Congress like a ping-pong ball.

Back in the neighborhood, the city, using federal money, joins the Bank of Chicago and a group of private developers in a 250 unit rehab deal. Some of the units will be subsidized for low-income families for a few years. Everybody knows that this is Sandburg Vil-



lage all over again.

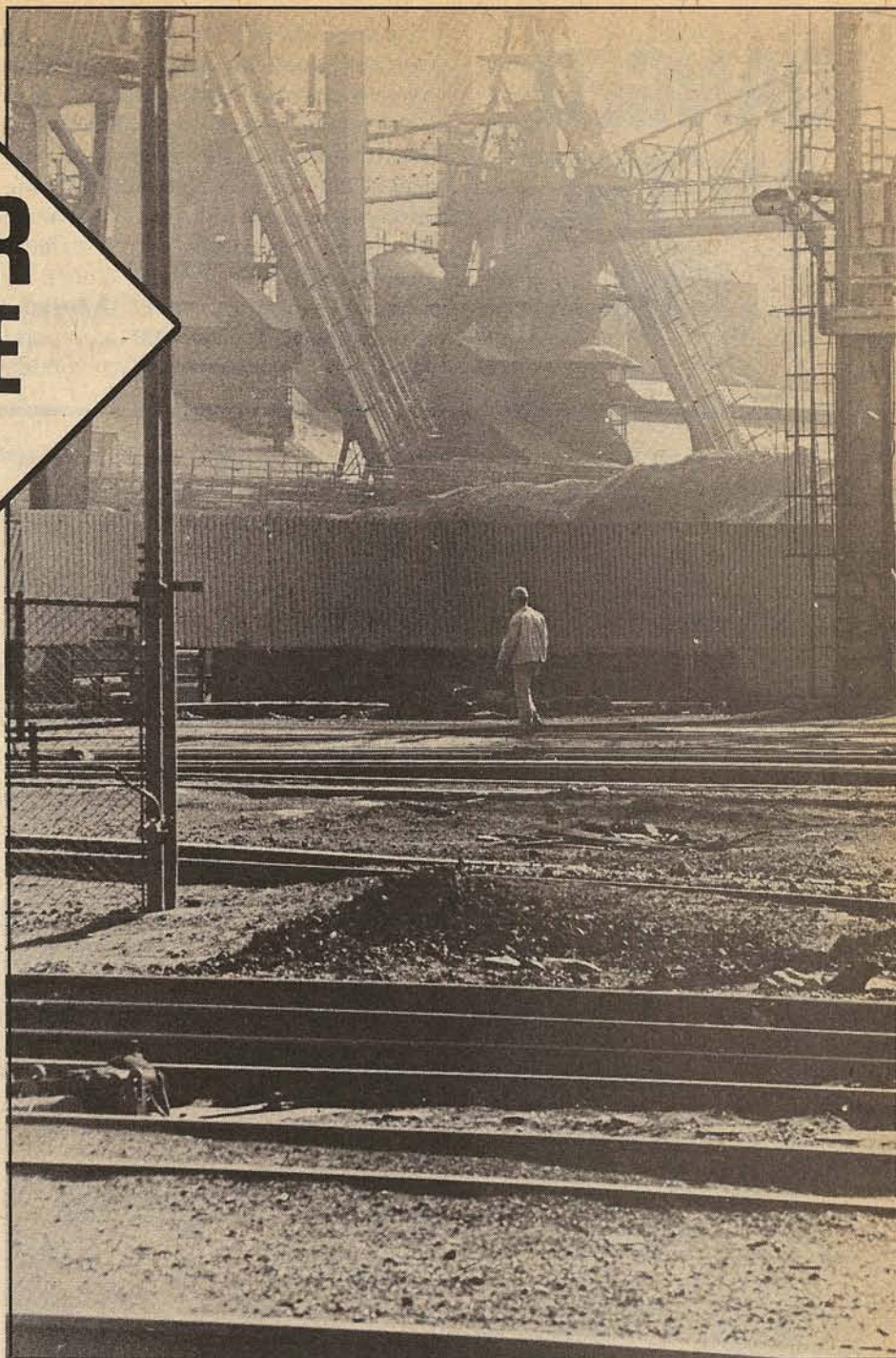
Financially strapped Cook County Hospital lies on its back, while the people who knocked it down try to kick the change out of its pockets. The politicians want the patronage jobs and the fat contracts so they call to disband the Health and Hospitals Governing Commission. They want to put County Hospital "in other hands." The medical capitalists, the hospital supply and drug companies, are not done making hundreds of millions of dollars off "public health care." They would put the hospital under the control of a private corporation.

Everywhere one turns, there's a politician, an office-seeker, or a "social policy expert" proposing a new partnership between government and the private sector, business. Rebuild the cities, provide health care to all, increase productivity on the job, clean the environment and, reduce the spiralling costs of fuel. All things to all people, through a new arrangement. The government can answer the calls, run the errands and sign the checks, but business will shape and run the programs and everything will work out fine.

Everything will not work out fine. There's no profit in serving the needs of the people. That's what a government is for — to serve the needs of the people. The needs of 98 percent of the people are directly opposed to the needs of big business. The only partnership we want to see is the one that has the government take all the profits from the corporations and give them an allowance if they act right. Then the government can use the money to serve the needs of the people directly. □

DANGER ON THE JOB

More than 16,000 American workers a day are injured or killed on their jobs...that's one every 5½ seconds. But OSHA inspectors can't get into some companies without a court order and a young man from Uptown tells his mother he may lose his job at a Tennessee tank plant if she talks about the defective equipment which killed her 21-year old son there last year...



As the numbers grow out of control, the question of job safety is taking its place high on the list of tens of millions of Americans. The "numbers" are the official statistics detailing the number of workers who were injured or made ill while working. The most recent statistics, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) are for 1977 and show 5.5 million workers hurt on the job, a rate of 16,000 a day

for every working day of the year. Injuries and illnesses resulted in the loss of over 36 million working days that year. Millions of women and men are exposed to chemicals and radiation on their jobs which cause damage to their reproductive systems. But critics of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), including its own director, call those figures "light."

DANGER ON THE JOB

Not all of OSHA's critics, however, are concerned about greater protection. A well-financed campaign, with conservative groups like the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce pumping money and energy in, seeks to remove all federal regulation of job safety/health hazards. A recent report by Chamber lobbyist Mark DeBernardo complained that OSHA regulations cost employers \$25 billion

between 1972 and 1979. DeBernardo attacked the usefulness of the federal job safety program citing, "In the wake of piles of more OSHA rules and paperwork, fatal injuries on the job soared by more than 24 percent from 1976 to 1977." Union and health care activists say Mr. DeBernardo's reasoning is backwards. They point out that OSHA can only cover two percent of the five million workplaces under its jurisdiction. This side is calling for a

David Mayes

David Mayes is a 38-year-old construction worker. He was in a gas explosion on April 8, 1978. The right side of his face was blown off, causing him to lose 95 percent of his nose, 60 percent of his hearing as well as his sense of smell and taste. For three days after the accident doctors doubted Mr. Mayes would survive. Since then he has been operated on nine

times and faces additional surgery. David has lost his right eye.

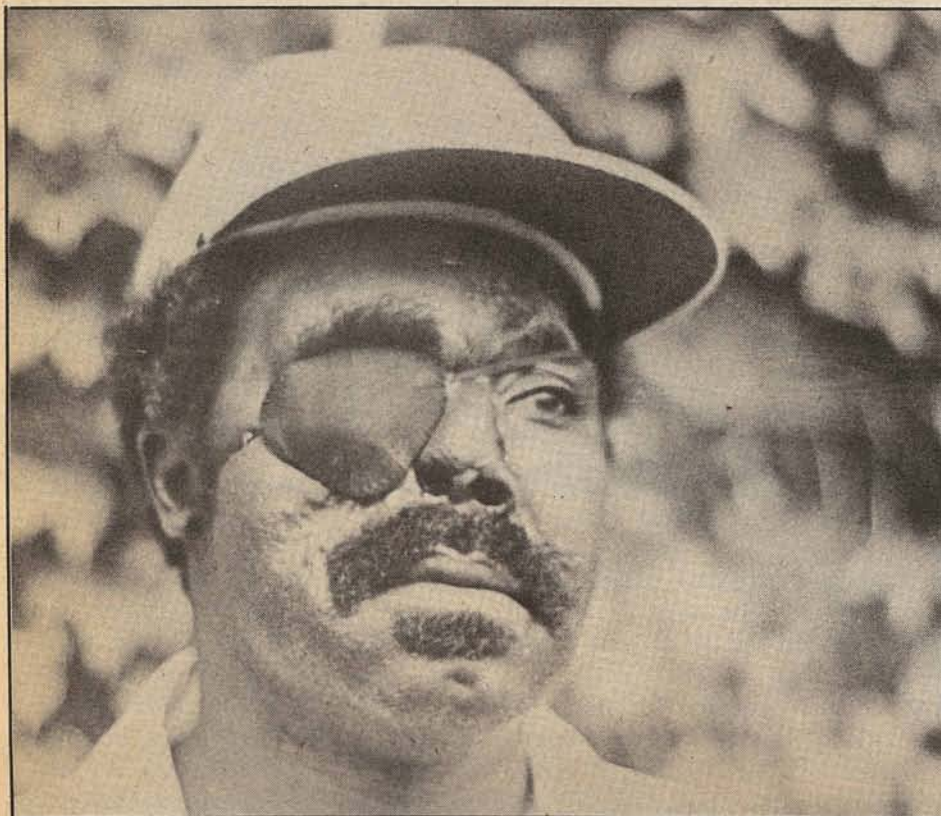
Mr. Mayes was working for a construction company that contracted to repair sidewalks for the city. On the day of the accident they were working on a sidewalk that had caved in around Paulina and North Avenue in Chicago. When the men arrived they smelled gas. After they had taken out the first concrete square the smell grew stronger. None of the squares were marked as covering a

gas line. The gas company was called and said they would dispatch a repair crew. The men continued working for another 45 minutes though the smell grew even stronger. David remembers, "It was getting so we could only work 10 or 15 minutes at a time. Then we'd have to walk away." Still, there was no crew from the gas company.

A woman who lived in the house closest to where they were working came out with her children. She said her house was full of gas. Mr. Mayes and another man were down in the hole in the sidewalk when the gas exploded. All of the concrete and debris fell on top of him. The explosion blew the woman's house away completely. The man who was in the hole with Mr. Mayes was blown across the street and received a concussion.

It was well over an hour before the gas company arrived. The woman whose house was blown away, reported that she had called the gas company several times earlier that week to report the leak. A secretary in the office of the construction company revealed that she had called the gas company while the men were at the site and was put on hold at least three times.

Asked if he thought men and women should have the right to refuse dangerous work, David Mayes answered yes easily, explaining, "You hear about accidents like this, but you never think it's going to happen to you." □



David Mayes lost his right eye and had the right side of his face blown off when a gas leak exploded while he was repairing a sidewalk for the City of Chicago.

DANGER ON THE JOB

bigger, stronger, better program to protect workers from being forced to sell their lives.

The movement for occupational

safety and health, which is not much happier with the federal agency than the Chamber of Commerce, but has much better reasons, has a base of support growing by 16,000 everyday. The full report from the BLS on 1977 indicates that the problem is reaching the critical stage.

More than 3.5 million people were reported injured or made ill in manufacturing and trade; 508,000 construction workers; 428,000 transportation and utility workers and 624,000

workers in a variety of services were injured. Of particular interest was the report's section on occupational illness. The report listed 161,900 cases in 1977 costing the loss of almost one million work days. A low 15,100 cases of diseases of the lung and respiratory system due to exposure to dust and toxic agents, were reported. But the average of 46 days lost per reported case, was two and three times greater than for other illnesses.

These figures are meager alongside

Henry Mason

Sixty-seven-year-old Henry Mason lives in Waukegan, Illinois. He began working in West Virginia coal mines in 1931, at the age of 18. He worked six days a week and received 30 cents an hour. When the mines closed down after 28 years, Mr. Mason moved to Waukegan and took a job at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. It was after he had moved to Waukegan that Mr. Mason noticed he had a breathing problem. When he tried to mow the lawn, he would lose his breath, get heavy chest pains and severe congestion and would have to sit down. Shortly after this began Mr. Mason was diagnosed as having black lung disease. In fact, explains Mr. Mason, all of the 44 men he worked with in the mines, have also been diagnosed as having black lung.

While he was working for Goodyear, Mr. Mason developed lead poisoning. He had worked in the coating department for three years when he began to break out in rashes on his hands, arms and legs. A sharp piece of lead hose, thrown from a machine, had hit him in the leg, allowing lead to enter his blood stream.

The company sent him to their doctor who diagnosed Mr. Mason's problem as ringworm and treated him accordingly for several weeks. The tough ex-miner recalls visiting the company nurse during this



time, "She said to me, 'Mr. Mason, are you sure you don't have athlete's foot.'" At that point Mr. Mason decided to see his own doctor who gave him a few tests and concluded, "You've got an infection from working with that lead."

In response to a letter from Mr. Mason's doctor, a supervisor at Goodyear transferred him to the warehouse. Mr. Mason compensated for the resulting 23 cents an hour pay cut by working overtime, averaging 12-16 hours a day. Although he was not directly touching lead in the warehouse, dust and particles filled the air around him. Within a short time he was fully broken out again. His skin was raw, "so raw that sitting in water would irritate it." His doctor treated the open sores with ointment and advised Mr. Mason to leave Goodyear.

Mr. Mason receives no black lung benefits although he has filed



Top: Henry Mason and his wife.

Above: Mason (second from left) in the coal mines during the 1930's.

a claim under the federal law. Nor is he compensated for the lead poisoning that forced him to retire from Goodyear. Of his experience at Goodyear, he says, "Quite a few of the men got lead poisoning. I don't think they knew what they had. I knew half a dozen of them personally. When I left they were still working, taking treatments and sucking in that lead." □

those recently reported by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), showing one worker in every four "currently may be exposed to OSHA regulated substances" which cause disease and/or death. But a faltering economy and unstable political situation has given birth to a full-fledged movement to declare occupa-

tional safety and health "inflationary," causing low productivity and discouraging to the growth of business. The movement will be using the upcoming elections to make deeper cuts into the federal regulations.

Eula Bingham, director of OSHA, recently told a Chicago seminar, "Our inspectors have been turned away from

plants where there are explosions and told by management to go to court for warrants." In the past, Ms. Bingham has been quoted saying that as many as 100,000 workers die each year from occupational illnesses. Dr. Anthony Robbins, director of NIOSH, has admitted that the figure is probably higher.

In the middle of all this, the U.S.

Teela Blankenship

Twenty-six-year-old Teela Blankenship had worked at Wells Manufacturing in Skokie, Ill. for five years by March, 1976. She lived with her parents and her small daughter, and stayed at Wells because the work was steady.

Teela was a molder. On March 29, 1976 she was working on a "Demmler Hot Box Coreblowing Machine" when she was injured. Private investigators offer the following report of the accident: "When the pattern came down and returned to the left, her hand was still in the machine. (The temperature in the machine was several hundred degrees at that moment.) Her hand was caught between the pattern and the frame, holding an air hose she had used to clean the frame. Her little finger and the one next to it were pressed against the pilot light and totally burned. The palm of her hand was pushed into the frame and the back of her hand was burned by the pattern. The hand itself had been smashed." After several weeks in the hospital Ms. Blankenship was released.

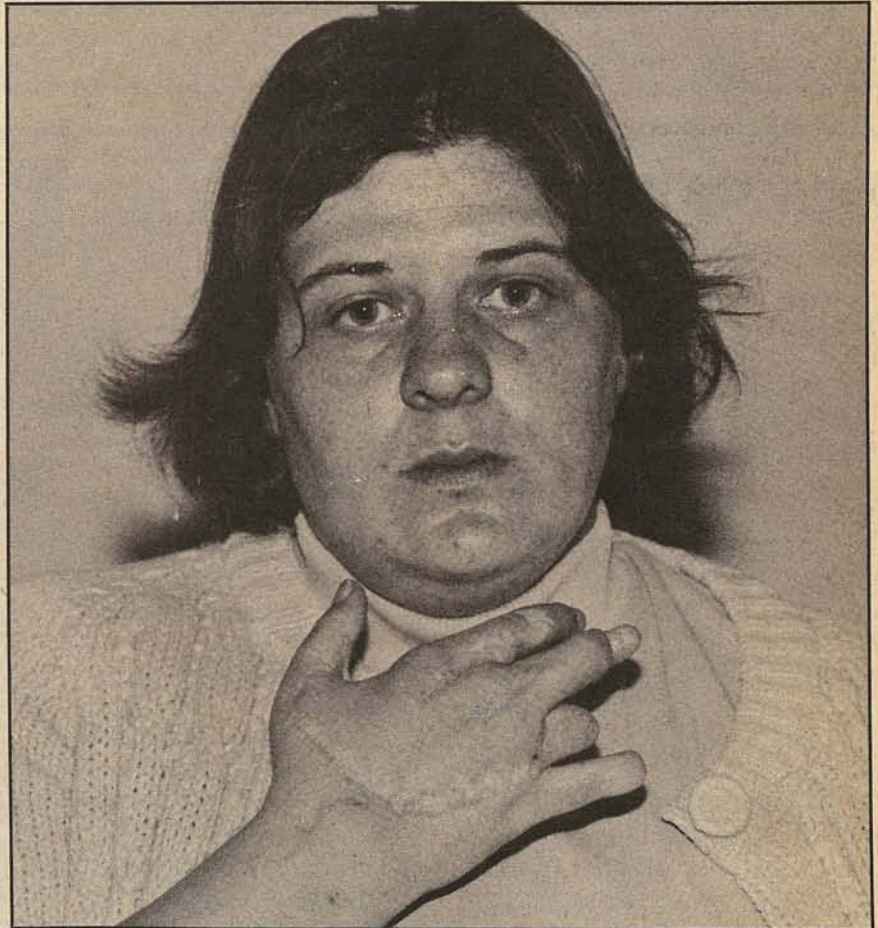
On the afternoon of May 15, she was visited by her immediate supervisor at Wells. He talked to Teela at length, attempting to dissuade her from hiring an attorney or filing any sort of suit for damages. He told her that if she stuck by the company they would pay her hospital bills and give her some other money. He explained that if she hired an attorney, "Wells will drop you," and she would have to pay for her own hospital bills. Ms. Blankenship sought independent

counsel. She has since settled with Wells and is now awaiting trial against the manufacturers of the Demmler Hot Box Coreblowing Machine.

Ms. Blankenship's accident arose from the fact that neither her employer nor the manufacturer of the Demmler Hot Box Coreblower had advised her of the possible danger in relighting the machine's burners in mid-operation. Ms. Blankenship had no choice other than to place her hand in the machine when she did. Further in-

vestigation revealed that she was not the first, but one of several women who had been maimed by that machine at that factory.

As of this report Ms. Blankenship has been operated on more than a dozen times, but attending doctors have reported, "In spite of all our efforts Ms. Blankenship does not have a good right hand....Her biggest difficulty, of course, being right-handed, is in the stiffness in the index and long fingers and the loss of her ring and small fingers of her right hand." □



Teela Blankenship — after a dozen operations on her right hand.

DANGER ON THE JOB

Supreme Court will soon be handing down a decision on one of the most important aspects of the entire occupational safety controversy. A case filed by the Labor Department against Whirlpool Corp. challenges the company's right to penalize workers who walk off jobs they believe are

unsafe. The matter developed when two Whirlpool workers, at the company's plant in Marion, Ohio, refused to walk out onto a wire mesh that caught spare parts from a conveyor belt. Two weeks before the men walked off the job, another worker had fallen through the wire mesh and died. One day before they walked off an OSHA inspector had cited the plant for unsafe conditions.

The Labor Department filed suit on behalf of the two men after they were docked one night's pay and reprimanded. The Federal Appeals Court in Cincinnati upheld the position of the Labor Department that the men had every right to refuse dangerous work. But similar courts in New Orleans and

Denver ruled against the workers' rights. OSHA efforts to keep track of a runaway system were set back two years ago when the Supreme Court ruled that the agency had to present court-authorized warrants before inspectors could enter private property against the wishes of the management.

In upholding the Labor Department position, the court in Cincinnati said, "A worker should not have to choose between his job and his life without the reasonable safeguard provided by this regulation." Spokesmen for Whirlpool objected to the Cincinnati court's decision, "Congress intended to give employers rather than workers, the benefit of the doubt for running safe factories." □

Robert Roloff

Robert Roloff was injured while working at his job as a baler operator. He began working at Crown Zellerbach Paper Co. in January, 1971 and stayed there until his accident in January, 1977. Although he had been on the baler (a machine which shears and rerolls corrugated paper) for two years at the time of his accident, Mr. Roloff reports that he had never been instructed in the safe operation of the machine. "They just said, 'There's a list there that tells you how to go about running the machine.'"

The accident occurred when Robert was feeding paper into the baler. A portion of the paper went around the belt and jammed in the roller. He turned off the machine and tried to pull the jammed paper out by hand. When that failed, he put the machine gears (still off) in reverse and tried to pull the paper out by hand. When that failed, he put the machine gears in reverse, hoping that this would clear the paper jam. Failing again, he hoping it would come out. Instead, the power of the machine pulled his arm into the rollers up to the elbow. He grasped desperately for a nearby switch but none were there.



Robert Roloff — his arm was caught in the paper shredder.

He thought to himself, "They said unjam the machine, however you can, but they never said anything about this." A co-worker hurried over and reversed the machine releasing Roloff's arm. The pain was intense, the arm mutilated, blood splattered all over and bones pro-

truded through the skin. His arm was fractured in two places. As of this report, Robert Roloff, hoping to regain use of the arm, has been to surgery on five different occasions.

Further investigation has identified similar occurrences in other parts of the country. An employee of the Potlatch Forest Inc., in Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania, was helping another man unjam a baler (also called a hogger) when the left toe of his shoe caught in the feed belt assembly and dragged his leg into the rollers. In August, 1977 a worker at the Georgia Pacific Corp., in San Mateo, California was injured similarly when his arm was caught. A woman working for Owens Illinois in Fairmont, West Virginia reported longterm nervous and emotional problems after her arm was caught and her hand crushed in a paper shredder. Finally, there is a report of an accident at the Nashua Corp., in Omaha, Nebraska. All of these cases are alike. The worker was caught off guard trying to dislodge paper jammed in the machine and could not reach a switch to turn off the machine. Most of these machines were manufactured by the same company — East Chicago Machine Tool Corp. □

Billy Joe French Jr.

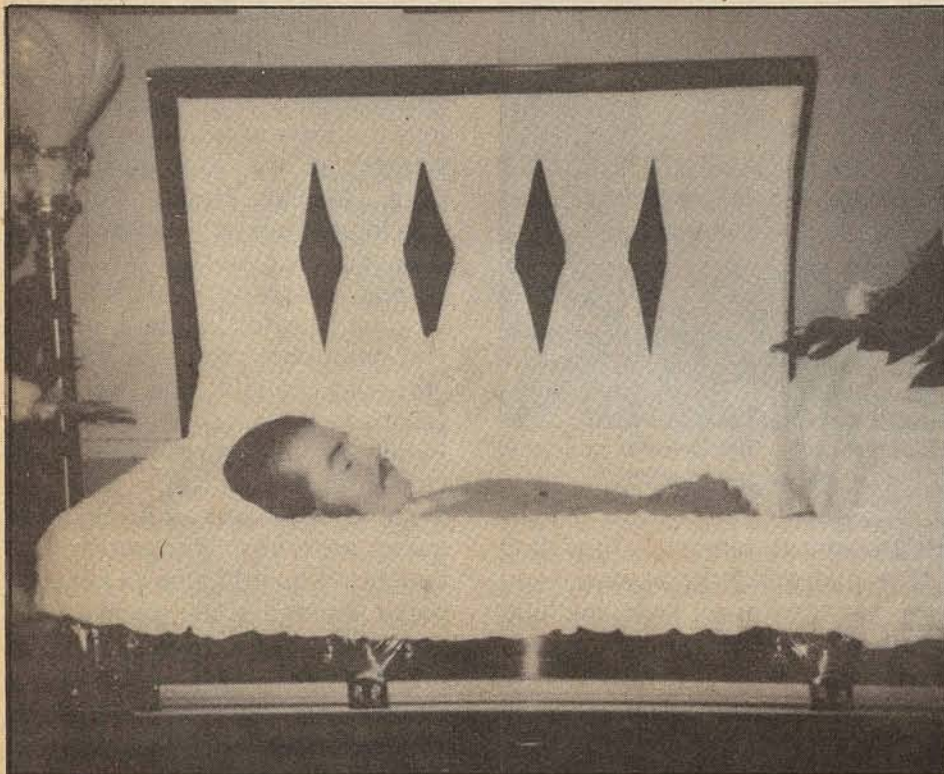
Joey French (as he was called by his family) was 21-years-old and employed at the National Tank and Maintenance Company in Humilolt, Tennessee. He was working with his brother on the inside of a giant water tank when he was injured in a fall. The brothers were supported by chairs that were hanging from cables, allowing them to move around the inside of the tank. Joey switched chairs with his younger brother (they were the only workers in the tank at that time). The chair broke and Joey fell to the floor of the tank. Unable to move, he asked his brother to go and find some help.

Joey had worked for National Tank and Maintenance previously for a year and a half. He had left to work for another company, but had returned, just three days before the accident, to his job at National Tank, for the higher pay.

Joey's younger brother climbed down the side of the tank and called for help. An ambulance was dispatched from a nearby town.



Joey French (top) when he was 18. (bottom) Dead at 21. OSHA inspectors had been through the plant and warned the company to replace the equipment seven months earlier.



The doctor arriving on the scene, believed that Joey might have internal injuries, and ordered him not to walk up the ladder. A military helicopter was sent to carry Joey out.

When the helicopter arrived, Joey's brother got into the helicopter. The pilot asked him to help pull the line into the helicopter after Joey was strapped into the stretcher at the other end. In mid-air, the pilot leaned over the younger French, patted him on the knee and said, "Don't worry, everything is OK." Then the helicopter line snapped and Joey plunged 175 feet to his death.

Although OSHA inspectors had been through the facility and warned the company to replace defective equipment by January, the company was using the same chairs and cables in the tank when the accident occurred on July 23. Mrs. Maxine French, Joey's mother, offers the final comments on this report, "My younger son still works for National Tank. He asked me not to talk about the defective equipment that caused the accident. He's afraid he'll lose his job, but I lost my son." 0

Pregnancy Discrimination Act Extends Benefits To Working Women

(Washington, D.C.) The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 prohibits discrimination against women workers on the basis of pregnancy or a pregnancy-related condition. Under the new law a pregnant woman worker must be granted the same benefits which cover other disabled workers. Congress passed the law following a major U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Gilbert vs. General Electric*. Martha Gilbert worked for the General Electric Company in Salem, Virginia. Women who work where there are 15 or more employees are covered by the law.

Since passage of the law, many companies attempt to mislead employees about what their rights are. Roberta Wood, a maintenance worker in the Chicago area had such an experience. Ten weeks before her child was born, Ms. Wood got a doctor's certification (usually required for all disability

claims) and took her maternity leave. When she tried to collect her benefits she ran into trouble. The company claimed that women working in the maintenance department should be able to work up until the 8th week before birth. Ms. Wood had to get a second doctor's authorization since she wanted to take an earlier leave. Ms. Wood filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) on the grounds that the new law states that the woman and her doctor have the right to decide the best time to stop work and when to return to her job after the birth. Ms. Wood won the case and received her benefits with no further delay.

Informed persons with the Steelworkers union report that private industry, particularly the steel companies, like Inland Steel, may be pressuring women into staying on the job



Since Martha Gilbert (above with her daughter) won her case against General Electric in the Supreme Court, a new federal law makes it illegal to fire a woman worker who becomes pregnant.

Your Rights Under The Pregnancy Discrimination Act Of 1978

Here are some of your basic rights under the new law:

- You cannot be fired or forced to take a leave because you are pregnant;
- If you take a sick leave for medical reasons related to your pregnancy you are entitled to the same medical benefits the company gives to other temporarily disabled workers;
- You have the right to decide with your physician when to stop working and when to return to your job after the birth of your child;
- Your employer is not required to pay for abortions except where the life of the mother is endangered. But medical complications arising from an abortion must be covered by your employer;
- Your employer must hold your job for you while you are on a pregnancy leave;
- If you are single you are covered the same as a married woman.

longer than is medically advisable. Women steelworkers from District 31 report that the management has been circulating memos telling women that they must get "certification of disability" from the "local corporate medical director" — the company doctor, a clear violation of the law.

In the Chicago area, Women Employed (782-3902) distributes fact sheets explaining a woman's rights under the new act. The group urges all women to carefully read their company's policy concerning pregnancy disability benefits.

Women who believe they are being discriminated against because of pregnancy or a pregnancy-related condition may file a complaint with the EEOC within 180 days of the discriminatory act, or contact a lawyer and sue the company. □

Gold Standard Workers Gain In Union Fight

(Chicago, Ill.) Workers at Gold Standard Liquor Stores have won another victory in their continuing ordeal (see KEEP STRONG, June 1979) to oust their present bargaining agent — Distillery Workers Local 3.

As reported in *Crain's* (Oct. 1), "The National Labor Relations Board has ruled in favor of charges by Retail Clerks Locals 1540 and 1550, that Distillery Workers Local 3 is not a legitimate bargaining agent for employees of Gold Standard enterprises." The board ruled further that those employees who were fired for union activity were in fact fired illegally. Gold Standard was ordered to provide back pay to 9 of the 11 people who were discharged for union organizing. More important is that the ruling almost clears the way for the workers to select another union or remain independent if they choose to.

Why "almost"? Jerry Gesiakowski of Retail Clerks Locals 1540-1550 explains, "The company appealed the whole decision. So it has to go to the Labor Relations Board in Washington to be reviewed. That could be anywhere from three to nine months. It can go to appellate court (Federal Court of Appeals) and be tied up for years. Realistically, we're hoping that people have the chance to vote for a

union of their own choice sometime next year." Gesiakowski explained that all this time worked to the advantage of the company. "Between 52 and 55 percent of the people who were working there when the organizing started have been replaced. Now the company is offering raises to get the new people alienated from any union." The Retail Clerks union had been called upon to assist Gold Standard workers after the company dismissed one of the early organizers.

The workers had accused and documented a "sweetheart" arrangement between Distillery Workers Local 3 and Gold Standard. As the drive to oust the Distillery Workers picked up steam, a goon squad (several of the men had ties to organized crime) made the rounds to a dozen Gold Standard stores to harass employees into signing Distillery Worker membership cards. The firing that resulted from that round brought the matter to the NLRB.

Gesiakowski indicated that the Justice Department was still moving on its investigation of the arrangement between the Distillery Workers and Gold Standard. Earlier KEEP STRONG (see June, 1979) had reported that this investigation was in the area of labor racketeering. □

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Rank And File Workers Oust IBEW At Stewart-Warner

(Chicago, Ill.) By a margin of almost two to one (1,519 to 885) workers at Stewart-Warner have replaced the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) as their legal representative with the United Worker's Association (UWA) a grass roots, in-

"The union was in for 29 years. It won't happen overnight but the workers have a chance now to build. They have control."

dependent union, formed from among the workers at Stewart-Warner.

The Wednesday, October 24 election represented a significant victory for the workers in their long struggle against low pay, unsafe working conditions, and "sweetheart" contracts. (See KEEP STRONG, Sept. 1979).

Employing over 2,500 workers at its Chicago plants, Stewart-Warner is one of the largest manufacturing concerns in the country. Notorious for its anti-labor tactics, the company has been at odds with its employees from the beginning of its existence. Organizing the work force 29 years ago, the IBEW (Local 1031) had represented the workers at Stewart-Warner for the last quarter century. But a growing rank and file movement among the Stewart-Warner workers replaced the IBEW in the October election after years of vainly trying to stop sweetheart contracts.

The following interview with Neil Burke, a worker at Stewart-Warner for over 20 years and leader in the rank and file movement, provides an in-depth and incisive view of both the conditions which led to the formation of the UWA and their recent

victory.

KEEP STRONG: Why do you feel that you had a victory the other day and what were some of the factors and conditions which assured your victory?

BURKE: Actually, all of the elections have been basically successful over the last six to seven years with the exception of one, and that one, in my estimation, was successful except that it had been stolen from us and we were not able to prove it. That's when 15 candidates opposed the entire 1031 slate for the first time in history. Basically we won because of the organizing that had been done over the past six or seven years.

KS: What were the specific issues during the election?

BURKE: There were all kinds of issues. We had discrimination, very low wages compared to similar plants in the area that size, very poor work-

ing conditions and there is no other plant in the Chicago metropolitan area that size that doesn't have a company-paid pension plan or adequate insurance.

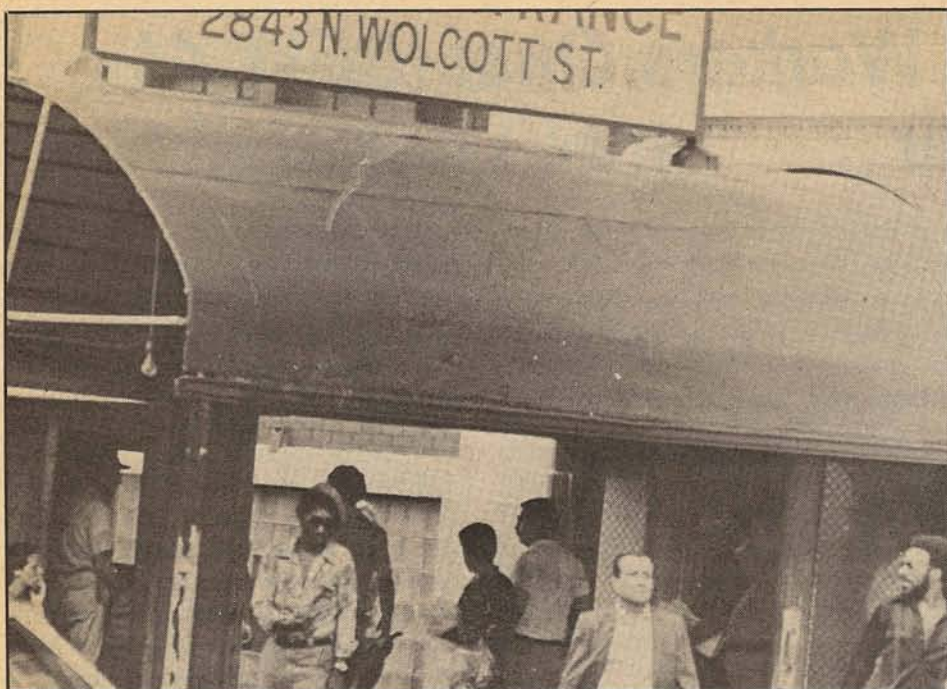
KS: Could you give us some specific examples of the poor working conditions?

BURKE: Well, one in particular is noise pollution where they have been in violation of federal law ever since the law was enacted in the middle of 1970. You go in some departments and they are pushing the workers too hard. They don't even have the proper tools to work with and it's just generally poor all over.

KS: You mentioned earlier you feel the reason you were able to have a good turnout and good outcome in the election had to do with organizing that had gone on in the past. Could you spell out a little bit what kind of



Neil Burke has worked at Stewart-Warner for more than 20 years and has been a leader of the rank-and-file movement (the United Workers Association) which won last October's election. "We won because of the organizing that had been done over the past six or seven years."



Stewart-Warner workers leaving plant at Diversey and Wilton. Stewart-Warner employs more than 2,500 workers in the Chicago area and discrimination and low wages have been workers' grievances for years.

organizing that was?

BURKE: The organizing started some years back with four people. It went under a different name back then. I came into it shortly after the organization had started when there was maybe a dozen people. As the struggle went on certain gains were made and eventually we ran in 13 steward elections in one year. At that time it was decided to change our name to the United IBEW Workers to show that we were willing to work along with the union. At a later date we went local-wide instead of just Stewart-Warner and we changed the name to United IBEW Workers of Local 1031.

We began certain struggles in that respect, trying to cut the officer's wages to what would be considered a reasonable salary. There was a dues increase we thought excessive because

CORRECTION

Last month KEEP STRONG incorrectly reported that the Chicago Public Building Commission had collected \$571,196,427 in rent in 1978. The correct amount was approximately \$54 million. We regret this error.

"Stewart-Warner is the only plant its size in the Chicago area that doesn't have a company-paid pension or adequate insurance."

the union officers were making \$70,000 a year and we were getting nothing. We started a fight called COOL. It was a Committee for Our Own Local within the structure of the IBEW. We signed up hundreds of members, filed everything the International asked and at the last minute they denied us the right to a vote. They actually left the workers no choice but to establish their own union and get completely out of the IBEW. And that's exactly what happened.

KS: Could you talk a little bit about what kind of reprisals you faced?

BURKE: We've had people harassed, we've had people terminated and that's part of the struggle. If you cannot accept the fact that there is going to be harassment, you shouldn't even be involved in it.

KS: How did you deal with harassment when it came up?

BURKE: Well, there is all sorts of ways. Between filing grievances, or going to the EEOC or the NLRB, or whatever particular movement might look the best. There were petitions filed at one time to get someone back to work; it just depends on the nature of the situation.

KS: Could you sum up for us what you really think was achieved through replacing the IBEW?

BURKE: For myself, and I think most of the workers that voted that way, we have given \$2 a week dues to the IBEW, about \$250,000 a year to the union, and we have not seen anywhere near a quarter million dollars worth of representation. Many workers feel we have gotten a festered nest out of there and that workers can now build and run their own show. It's going to be a

struggle. The union was in for 29 years. We're starting out at the bottom and it's not going to happen overnight, but the workers have a chance now to build. They have control. □



Neil Burke's hearing has been damaged since he's worked at Stewart-Warner where noise pollution is a major problem. "They've been in violation of the federal law since it was passed in the mid-1970's."

"Parents Aren't Really Helping" — Board Of Education



(Chicago, Ill.) In Chicago last year more than 25 percent of the students in 8th grade did not read well enough to go on to high school. But the Board of Education maintains a policy of keeping parents from getting "too involved" in the education of their children.

Last year the school board changed its promotion policy. The new policy directs that a child must master 218 of 273 skills, with particular attention to reading, in order to go on to high school. Students are held back in the earlier grades until they master specific skills, according to Dr. Angeline Caruso, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum.

But critics of the board, and parents across the city feel that holding students back only deals with the symptom of the disease. Most feel they have been stonewalled or "locked out" of their children's education and the effect of this has been negative.

Dr. Caruso, interviewed by phone, affirmed the board's policy. "Neither the textbook nor the workbook should go home with the student. Parents and older brothers and sisters think they're helping, but they really aren't. Often the parents will tell the children to go

**A Board of Education administrator stated:
"Neither textbooks nor workbooks should go home with the student."**

ahead in the book when they really don't know what the teacher is doing. Children's learning should be closely monitored by teachers."

Dr. Caruso explained that teachers are allotted time in their schools to meet with parents about their

children's progress. Nevertheless, Dr. Caruso emphasized that only "recreational reading" should go home with the student at the end of the school day.

At Schneider Elementary School, 2957 N. Hoyne, the average 11 year old was reading at a 5.3 grade level last year, a full grade behind the national average of 6.3.

When Sara Walker and her family moved out of Uptown last spring to the Lathrop Projects she took her two oldest girls, Debbie, 12 and Chris, 11, to Schneider Elementary School at 2957 N. Hoyne. She introduced the girls to the principal, Ms. Cooper and showed her the transfer slips. Ms. Cooper looked at the transfers and told Sara, "All I can tell you right now is that your oldest daughter won't graduate until she is 15 years old."

Before going to Schneider, Debbie Walker attended Joan Arai Middle

EDUCATION

School in Uptown and did excellent work there, according to her mother, who remembers her report card and her teacher's comments. "Her grades were high and the teachers hated to see her leave. But here (at Schneider) they put her back. She was supposed to be in 7th grade and they put her back to sixth. They put my other daughter back, too. She was supposed to go to 6th. They said they were poor readers

does a principal know at what age the kid is going to graduate unless she's already got it stuck in her mind?"

When Sara tried to find out why Debbie was put back she got no real answer from the school and finally went to look at her daughter's school records. Her reading test scores showed that she was at a "J" level — or about 5th grade level. Ms. Cooper told Sara that Joan Arai School probably pushed

The Board of Education gave Schneider School between \$9 and \$10 per student for books and supplies.

and not good students. But I can't see that because they had done excellent work before at the other school. How



At Schneider Elementary School the average 11-year old reads at a 5th grade level — a full year below the national average.

Cindy ahead or "up" a grade before she was really ready for it. Ms. Cooper also told Sara that if she would work with Debbie and get her reading level up, she would be promoted to the 7th grade.

But helping a child when the school won't cooperate is easier said than done. While parents have complained about being made to pay for textbooks out of their own pockets, there are numerous reports of children not being able to take the books home. In one class at Schneider the students were required to bring \$2 from home for a spelling workbook. After they paid for the books they were told they couldn't bring them home.

Information from the Board of Education shows that Schneider Elementary was given between \$9 and \$10 per student for textbooks and supplies last year. Dr. Caruso, who doubles as superintendent for instructional service, explains that's all that is available. "Because of inflation costs, everything costs 40 percent more. The board's allocation covers hard cover books, which means that there's little money left for the software. Each school tries to take up a collection to see that the students can get these workbooks. Sometimes it means selling taffy apples or the money comes from the PTA. But it isn't absolutely essential to have a workbook." □

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Historic Avery Suit Against City And Real Estate Developer Nears Settlement

(Chicago, Ill.) From LaSalle Street to the Golden Mile, real estate and legal circles are starting to buzz about a possible settlement in the landmark Avery suit. Filed in 1975 by a group of Uptown residents, as a class action, the suit sought to end a "historic conspiracy" on the part of the city and private developers to destroy integrated communities.

In Uptown, the buzzing never stopped. The plaintiffs in the suit are still in the neighborhood. They have met and consulted regularly with their attorneys. They have organized forums at least two or three times a year to inform the community, "the class," of the progress of the suit. Many of them lived through terror in the months before they were finally removed from their houses in the Broadway-Pensacola area.

First there was the Montrose Beach Apartment Hotel, with its 300-plus senior citizens. Moderately priced and reasonably clean and secure, by 1975 the Montrose Beach had been home to some residents for 30 years or more. Mayor Daley's former son-in-law, Bill Thompson had just completed construction of the Boardwalk, two blocks down at Montrose and Clarendon. He was moving west with a grand plan. At Broadway and Montrose he wanted to erect two high-rise apartment towers straddling an indoor shopping complex.

The Montrose Beach stood in the way. Within a short time the building was filled with garbage, fires, pimps and dope dealers. Security in the building was removed completely and robberies and muggings of seniors increased tenfold. By the spring of 1975 all that remained was a hollow, burnt-out shell.

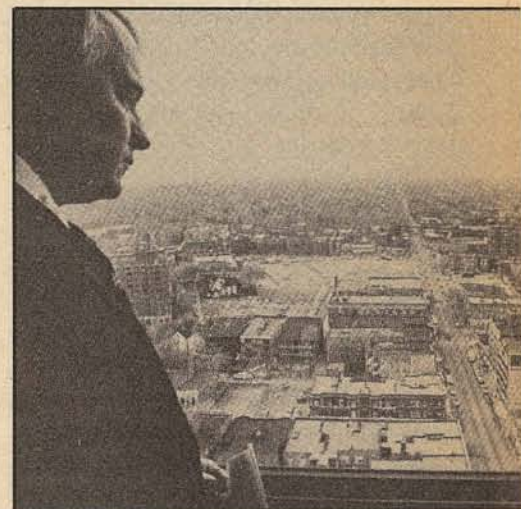
Thompson's plan, with the backing of the alderman and full approval of the city, also included two courtyard

buildings at Broadway and Buena. The buildings had been purchased by the now defunct Maremont Foundation several years before. Rehabilitation and Section 23 housing subsidies (now called Section 8) were financed by the federal government. As Maremont crumbled under mismanagement, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) took control of the buildings and contracted a series of real estate hustlers to manage it. The buildings housed 100 large, mostly Black families. Thompson was the final hustler to get a management contract from the government for the courtyards, in 1974. Within a year his real estate company had purchased the courtyards and began to evict the families. Simultaneously, there was a noticeable increase in the frequency with which police — with guns drawn — appeared around the courtyards. By the fall of 1975 the buildings were empty and boarded, the playlot across the street that the parents had fought for unused.

It was at this time that several of the people who had been removed, and several others representing "the class," with the assistance of the Uptown People's Community Service Center, filed a suit to block that development and all future developments which remove non-White and poor White people and replace their homes with new housing that excludes them.

Skeptic, non-believers and real estate people around the city laughed at the efforts of the small group to stop the giant development. The case dragged through the courts for three years before the first break came. In April, 1978 Federal Judge Alfred Kirkland dismissed the defense (Thompson, his backers and the city) motion to throw out the complaint and ruled that the Uptown residents did in fact have a cause for action.

The pace of negotiations, between attorneys for the plaintiffs and the defendants, has quickened since the federal ruling. Within the last month KEEP STRONG has learned that a settlement in Thompson's part of the suit, might not be far off. Spokespersons



Real estate magnate Bill Thompson overlooks Uptown. His "grand plan" for luxury housing and a fancy shopping center was challenged by low-income tenants in the historic Avery suit.

for the plaintiffs will not comment officially and staff at the Uptown People's Community Service Center say details of any agreement are not confirmed. But sources close to the negotiations are clear on the effects the settlement will have. "First of all, they're only talking about settling with Thompson. The city is still in this suit and it can be amended to add new defendants at any time. Anyone who is thinking about uncontrolled development better ask Thompson how much money he lost the last four years."

Asked about the specifics of the settlement, KEEP STRONG's source was vague but direct, "The community will get some jobs, some housing and a grocery store." □



Juanita Galvan Wins Black Lung Claim

(Chicago, Ill.) The Chicago Area Black Lung Association (CABLA) announced a recent victory when the Social Security Administration (SSA) reviewed the previously denied claim of Jose Galvan who died in 1977. His widow, Juanita Galvan, can now receive benefits.

"The Galvan case really capsulizes much of the history of abuse and injustices suffered by black lung victims who migrated to Uptown and other communities like it," stated a CABLA spokesperson in announcing the victory.

Mr. Galvan, a Mexican-American originally from Texas, worked in the coal mines of West Virginia (McDowell County) for 30 years from 1935-65. At that time, he moved to Uptown be-

cause his respiratory problems made it difficult for him to work in the coal mines. These problems continued to plague him and he was hospitalized by his family doctor in 1969 because of "respiratory insufficiency." In order to support his family, he continued to do light factory work. In 1970, Mr. Galvan applied for black lung benefits under the federal program (then under SSA) and was denied. On a trip back to West Virginia he was diagnosed "positive" for black lung by X-ray, but Social Security continued to deny him benefits because one of their own "B-readers" re-read the film "negative."

Mr. Galvan continued to appeal the case, requesting a formal hearing before one of Social Security's "Administrative Law Judges." In 1975, he went to the Board of Health Clinic in Uptown, told them of his work history and his medical problems. They performed a perfunctory X-ray which was routinely interpreted as negative for black lung and no follow-up of any kind was attempted. Concerned doctors in the coalfields have made it clear that an X-ray by itself is never sufficient to reach a negative conclusion about black lung.

Mr. Galvan appealed his case to Social Security where Charles Dean Connor, an administrative law judge heard the case. The denial was based in large part on Connor's finding that the work which Jose did after 1973 (the date by which he had to prove disability) was *heavy work, comparable to coal mining* so that he couldn't have been disabled since he was able to do comparable work. The tape of the hearing reveals that in fact, earlier in the hearing Mr. Galvan made clear the plain and simple fact that what he did in the

factory was much lighter than coal mining in that it involved lifting parts weighing from three to five pounds. Subsequent investigation by CABLA showed that approximately *once a week*, Mr. Galvan and a *co-worker* were involved in lifting 100

In 1975 the Uptown Board of Health Clinic routinely read Mr. Galvan's X-ray as negative for black lung and never did any follow-up.

pounds *three inches off the floor*. The rest of the time Mr. Galvan sat down and lifted three pound parts.

In a final effort to win his claim, Mr. Galvan travelled to West Virginia where he hired a lawyer to pursue a court appeal. He died in 1977 at age 61 of a heart attack. An autopsy was performed which conclusively showed black lung and related chronic cor pulmonale (heart failure).

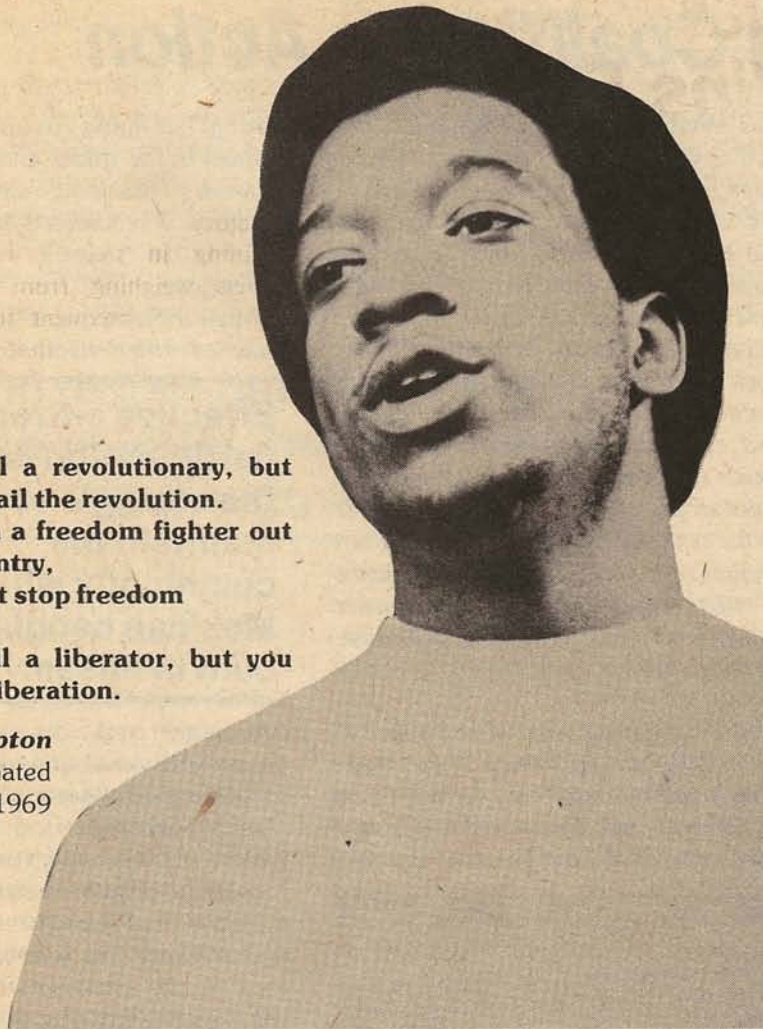
His widow Juanita then requested the assistance of CABLA. The lawyer in West Virginia had not pursued the appeal and the case was closed leaving the widow the choice of giving up or pursuing the claim under the much harder standards of the Department of Labor benefits program (1977).

Ms. Galvan finally won her benefits because the 1978 amendments fought for by the Black Lung Associations reopened the original claim. Under the 1978 amendments the government B-readers were eliminated. This meant that Mr. Galvan's original X-ray which read positive for black lung had to be accepted. □



Jose Galvan at a CABLA demonstration in 1977.

KEEP STRONG



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Pilsen Fights Back — Pilsen Planning Coalition In Action

PART TWO

by Victoria Roja

The Pilsen neighborhood, located on Chicago's near west side, has waged an intense struggle for control of community development since the 1960's. Pilsen residents, predominantly Mexican, have built a number of strong grass roots organizations to meet the growing needs of the people — Casa Aztlan, Pilsen Neighbors, Latino Youth, Las Mujeres Latinas en Acción, El Hogar del Nino. Even as state and federal agencies moved into the area in the early 1970's the community fought to see that the services continued to respect their culture, language and be controlled by Mexicans. One of the significant victories for the community was the building of the Benito Juarez High School for Mexican youth.

During the 1970's a strong coalition

was developed by local organizations and residents to fight the city's masterplan for downtown urban renewal — the Chicago 21 Plan. Pilsen, located on the edge of the downtown Loop, was targeted for housing rehab and business revitalization in order to attract middle-class and upper-income Whites back to the city. The community developed its own plan for jobs, housing and economic development and continues to struggle with the city to have a voice in planning for the area. Part II looks at the achievements of the Pilsen Housing and Business Alliance (PHBA) and current struggles to secure control of community and economic development.

New organizations were built to deal with the problems of rehabbing buildings and by the beginning of 1979 several units of housing had been rehabbed and in the process,

young, ex-gang people had been trained in the trades and had been put to work. These successes were seen by many as token efforts by the city designed to keep protest from developing.

Mass meetings were held in the East End of the Pilsen community as

Effective citizen participation is key in the struggle to maintain the community which Mexican people have built in Pilsen.

community residents, aware of the danger of Plan 21 and faced with a deteriorating neighborhood began to demand more city services, repair of parks and homes and a promise to keep jobs in the neighborhoods. From these meetings the Pilsen Housing and Business Alliance was formed in 1978 and took on the responsibility to fight for decent jobs, housing and community development. The Alliance submitted proposals to the city for community development funds. City hall responded with a form letter thanking them "for your ideas and suggestions." PHBA organized a confrontation with the Community Development Coordinating Committee, the committee that decides where money is going to be spent. PHBA demanded to know what portion of all the dollars received by the city went to neighborhood reconstruction for the benefit of community residents and what went to activities designed to carry out the masterplan. The committee arrogantly refused to answer. When the city of Chicago Community Development Coordinating Committee called a hearing on its Year V application requesting \$117 million



Mural in Pilsen shows the Mexican community's determination to resist the city's masterplan for redevelopment and to demand respect for the people's culture.

from the federal government, PHBA organized a meeting of all the agencies and organizations in the community. Together they decided that they had had enough. They called for a Pilsen boycott of the community development hearings and for the organization of a community-based meeting on community development needs. Out of this action a new coalition was formalized, the Pilsen Planning Coalition for Community Development, composed of 22 organizations and agencies in

of a blizzard with ice and snow piled in mounds, making driving and walking difficult, 300 people gathered in the hall at St. Pius Parish to listen to the plans, discuss them, vote on them and to present them to the city administration. Once again the city administration ignored the people and once again the people of Pilsen demonstrated that they were not going to get tired of demanding their rights. They went to city hall and demanded a meeting with the commissioner of planning — Kap-

City Hall responded to the Alliance with a form letter thanking them "for your ideas and suggestions."

Pilsen. The Coalition organized community planning meetings in the areas of housing, environment, economic development and social services. In the midst of Chicago's bitter winter, community residents turned out to offer suggestions on future plans for the community. Proposals took shape. People began to see how these proposals fit together and how they all complimented Pilsen's earlier community plan.

Then, in February 1979 in the midst

salis — and got it. By this time it was rumored that Bilandic was on his way out, and that Kapsalis' head was on the chopping block. He had nothing to lose. He agreed to Pilsen's proposals. Pilsen demanded these in writing and he agreed. A month later, after Byrne's primary victory, a memorandum came from the Planning Department which did not reflect the earlier agreement that had been made. The Coalition decided to stop playing games and to take the matter directly to Jane Byrne be-

fore her election and get her to reaffirm what had been negotiated as a matter of policy on neighborhood development. Byrne refused to meet. A letter sent to her with Pilsen's proposals went unanswered. This completely contradicted all the statements she made in her media campaign which painted her as the champion of the people.

Once again Pilsen joined forces with other neighborhoods to pressure the Byrne forces to respond to fundamental democratic demands. Byrne responded with a freeze-out; first promising to appear at a community meeting and then cancelling the date. Angered, the newly formed Latino City-wide Coalition uniting Mexican and Puerto Ricans decided to confront Byrne at a testimonial arranged for her in Chicago's plush Hyatt House Hotel. The decision was to have an orderly press conference and then retire. Instead, Hyatt House detectives and Chicago police charged the people, knocking women and children over sofas, and then proceeded to selectively arrest the Westtown Coalition leadership, avoiding the arrest of Pilsen's people. What made the arrests all the more deceitful was that the Byrne forces knew previously that a press conference was going to be held, and not a demonstration. Shortly after the arrest of the



Sears Tower looms in the Pilsen skyline. Located on the edge of the Chicago Loop Pilsen has been targeted for "revitalization" in the Chicago 21 Plan.



A sidewalk sale in Pilsen. The Pilsen Housing and Business Alliance is fighting to demand that federal funds go to benefit the small businesses not big developers.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Westtown leadership, a call from Byrne's office offered a meeting with Pilsen leadership, but not with the Westtown people. The Pilsen Coalition leadership angrily refused and vowed to continue the campaign against Byrne, since she had shown deceitfulness. Money was raised to get the Westtown leadership out of jail and Puerto Rican and Mexican solidarity was once again demonstrated.

Finally, after the threat of a massive demonstration on March 30, Byrne agreed to a meeting on these issues of concern to the Latinos. After her election, a meeting was held in which she agreed to the demand for an affirmative action plan for the city, effective citizen's participation in the planning and distribution of federal monies, and no interference in the rights of undocumented people by city agencies, including the police.

The concrete results from all the efforts is the provision of funds for a rehab and training program for Westtown and several proposals that were funded for Pilsen. However, the demand raised by the Pilsen Planning Coalition for Community Development, the right to effective



Pilsen residents hold rally to demand an end to harassment of undocumented people by city agencies including the police.

citizen participation, has not been realized. Once again the Coalition is raising the demand, for it is key in the struggle to maintain the community which the Mexican people have built in Pilsen, as well as for Black, Puerto Rican and other poor people in the city. Until this demand is realized, the developers, the banks, large corporations and city hall politicians, can con-

tinue to meet behind closed doors to scheme about how to use taxpayers money to move poor and working-class people out of the city, and to bring upper-income people in.

Pilsen is able to keep fighting because it is growing in unity against the forces that oppress it. And it is growing in unity because the people of Pilsen are determined to resist. □

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Dick Gregory — America: "Wake Up" About Prisons

Civil rights activist and comedian Dick Gregory spoke in Chicago last month at a rally held in support of the Pontiac Brothers. The Pontiac Brothers are 31 Black and Latino inmates at Pontiac State Prison who have been indicted on charges arising from a major prison rebellion last July. Seventeen of the Black inmates face the death penalty on charges of killing three guards during the uprising. An excerpt from Dick Gregory's remarks at a press conference before the rally are printed below.

"I would hope that this nation would wake up and become seriously concerned about the inmates of penal institutions and about ex-offenders who are out. I am here tonight to say that I, as one human being, am very, very concerned about prison reform and capital punishment.

"What the prison population is going through is unbearable. If you go into the prisons where they've had the most

horrible rebellions you will find out that there are drugs being used, uncontrollable, which create different kinds of attitudes, moods of violence and moods of hostility. If I was working on the Pontiac case I would go in and get those medical records and see what kinds of drugs are being used in that institution. I've talked to people in prison who have taken a drink of water or kool-aid and they couldn't sleep for two or three weeks. Then they had to get another shot that would put them to sleep. We'll find a lot of horrible things going on in these institutions and the U.S. government is heavily involved.

"I can almost guarantee you that the same thing that happened in Attica will happen here. There will be long, drawn out political cases and towards the end more information will come out and most of the indictments will start getting dropped. It's always the same pattern. If you don't have good lawyers, if

you're not getting big press, it's a different story. In Reidsville jail down in Georgia it's incredible. Forty-four people can be killed. I feel sorry for the Blacks that are killed and the Whites that have to kill them. The guards walk in and give the White population "X" amount of guns and then they'll send a Black person to that cell block and if

"I've talked to people in prison who've taken a drink of water or kool-aid and they couldn't sleep for two or three weeks."

the Whites don't kill him, they'll be killed. So you got a situation where you make animals out of people. The American people should know what's going on.

"In the most Christian country in the world we can cry over the crucifixion of Christ and can't understand today that what happened to Christ was capital punishment. If Christ came back to America today and bugged the wrong people, if he came back and attacked the oil industries or the banks he'd get the electric chair. And 2,000 years from now we'll all be walking around with a cross around our neck, not understanding what happened. So I hope that this country would go into a direction where the conditions in the jail will be such that revolts, hostility and violence will be a thing of the past." □



Dick Gregory: "We'll find a lot of horrible things going on in these institutions and the U.S. government is heavily involved."

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Blue Ribbon Panel Calls For New Prison In Chicago

(Chicago, Ill.) A special blue-ribbon panel set up by the state after last year's rebellion at Pontiac Correctional Center has recommended that a medium security prison housing up to 500 inmates, be built in the Chicago area. A preliminary report issued last month by the Illinois Joint Legislative Advisory Committee on Corrections also proposed that a pre-release center be built in the city.

Other proposals made by the committee in their special report include creating a comprehensive computerized system for keeping inmate records and a complete revision of rules, regulations, and disciplinary procedures affecting Illinois inmates. The panel also

urged an expansion of the state's prison industries program. At the present time only 500 of the 11,000 inmates held in Illinois prisons are employed.

Only 500 of the 11,000 inmates in Illinois prisons are employed in the state's prison industries program.

Illinois State Corrections director Gayle M. Franzen has voiced strong opposition to the building of a prison in Chicago. Two new prisons are already under construction downstate where it is easier to "recruit a stable

guard force," Franzen observed. There is also less competition with private industry in the downstate areas which means that the state can get cheaper labor. Franzen stated that these factors were more important in selecting a site for the prison than the convenience of inmate family visits. More than 60 percent of inmates in the Illinois prisons come from Chicago.

The special panel is scheduled to make a final report to the Illinois General Assembly early next year. Unless the committee's recommendations are acted on immediately, a panel spokesman said that the Illinois prison system would "experience more violence and more riots." □

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Chicago Youth Run Community Video Project

by Tim Hart

"The world won't get much better if we all let it be."

These words from a popular song form the theme of a video tape production on housing rehabilitation in Uptown.

The video tape titled "Voice of the People," is one project of the Uptown Community Video Center (UCVC). The staff of UCVC is made up of young adults from the Uptown com-

"Community video is better than TV. It's made by people who know what's going on in the community."

munity working with the part-time CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act) youth program.

The staff works 2 — 3 hours, 5 days a week. Besides doing their own video productions, they also teach and instruct high school students in using video.

Carla Rogers, who has worked for UCVC for two years, said, "Before I started working here I didn't know anything about what is going on in the community or really care." She says that by working in community video she "has learned how to communicate and care for other people."

Sandy Ortiz, 19, said that her year of work with UCVC has helped her to become more outgoing and less shy.

Sandra Rogers, 19, says that she also has "learned how to talk to people and gained more self-confidence."

Fern Batie, 20, says that working in video has made her politically aware. She said, "Community video is better than TV because it is made by people who know what is going on in the



Young adults from the Uptown Community Video Center shoot a scene in the community (above). Taking a break (below) they pose for a shot.



community."

Denise Zaccardi, who directs UCVC, commented that video lends itself to community participation. She says, "Community TV is unique because people in a specific neighborhood are able to send their own messages instead of just receiving them (from commercial TV)."

For the "Voice of the People" tape on housing rehab, the UCVC staff filmed painting and plastering in process, interviewed tenants and attended a tenants meeting.

Nancy Cruz, 16, said that after shooting the scenes it took 11 hours to edit and produce one, four minute segment of the tape.

The "Voice of the People" tape has been shown to several community groups and on Public TV station Channel 11. The staff maintains a library of their productions for public use. One tape called "Latin Queens" is about a female street gang. It won a top prize at a video tape competition at the University of Chicago. They have tapes on a variety of issues including drugs, pregnancy, gangs, art murals and alcoholism. □

Tim Hart is News Editor of the Chicago ILLINI.

Heart Of Uptown Coalition Launches Membership Drive



In a move that had been expected for weeks, the Heart of Uptown Block Club Coalition opened a community-wide membership drive at a packed meeting at their Wilson Avenue headquarters.

To date the Coalition has compiled an impressive record — forcing the city and its agencies to negotiate directly with the community, working with and assisting residents and landlords. Most recently, the organization has begun to develop independent funding for rehab. Sources close to the Coalition report that the community has been ready to expand its structure for some time. "Uptown carried Helen Shiller," community residents at the meeting were quick to explain, indicating broad

support for Shiller's razor-sharp stances in favor of community controlled development and against real

"We're faced with a full blown real estate assault — a dozen and a half Chicago banks, 60 different private developers and hundreds of slumlord operators."

estate profiteering.

In fact, Ms. Shiller carried Uptown's 15 precincts by several hundred votes

in the race for the city council seat in the 46th ward last winter. Of the latest membership drive she commented recently, "We are locked in a struggle over the direction and future of this community. The people who have lived in the community for the last 20, 30 or 40 years, just like people in every other neighborhood who have lived there for a while, don't want to leave, can't leave and shouldn't have to leave the community.

"We're faced with a full blown real estate assault. A dozen and a half Chicago banks (from the giant Continental with \$31 billion to the Bank of Chicago on Wilson and Kenmore), as many as 60 different private development groups, surrounding four or five prin-

cial ones, insurance adjusters, hundreds of slumlord operators and untold numbers of arsonists, petty chisellers and rip-off artists have taken their toll over the last 10 years. Three thousand units of housing have been destroyed, thousands of families have been displaced, basic services have been cut to the bone or withdrawn completely.

"All of this time, while people were burned out on sub-zero winter nights, while children were falling through half broken porches, and senior citizens opened cans of cat food or starved, the Democratic Party watched it go down. They never made a move to stop the fires, the bulldozers or the beatings or the deaths or the rip-offs. The ward organization has pretended to represent the people but it's been on their payroll the whole time."

The Coalition now faces an attack from the Uptown Chicago Commission, (UCC). The UCC is in the first strides of its campaign to show that the Block Club Coalition does not represent the residents of Uptown. Skeptics of the UCC's sincerity are quick to point out that it is the only community group in the city that backs unrestricted condominium conversions.

Ms. Shiller went on to explain that the membership drive would strengthen the community's resistance to the real estate onslaught backed by the city. Clearly the other purpose is to build visible support for the Coalition's demands for 600 additional units of low and moderate income housing—approximately 300 brand new and 300 rehabilitated units.

Other spokespersons for the Coalition described the specifics of the drive. Jack Hart, staff director, said, "Over the last several months a number of self-styled community groups, like the UCC, closely associated or controlled by the 46th ward Regular Democratic Organization, have restated their opposition to the construction of low income housing in Uptown. Of course, their real desire is for the Gold Coast to extend west to Ashland (1600 W.) or Western Ave. (2400 W.).



Helen Shiller, co-chairperson of the Heart of Uptown Coalition addresses the kick-off membership drive meeting last month. H.O.U.C. plans to have several thousand members by the end of January which will strengthen the community's resistance to the real estate attack backed by the city.

"Over the next few months we'll be recruiting people, clubs, tenants groups, church groups, anybody out there who is willing to fight to turn this community around for the people who live here now. We expect to have several thousand members by the end of January."

Asked about the Chicago Commission's charges, Hart was quick to respond, "Listen, we're not some little organizers that are trying to get something going around housing. The people of this community put that clinic in there (referring to the Uptown People's Community Health Center), they put that college in across the street from it, they put that law office in downstairs. We know all about fighting. We have something to fight with. More importantly, we know how many people we're in touch with on a day to day basis. That's more people than the Uptown Chicago Commission talks to in a year. The strength of our coalition is the people's participation in the institutions we have fought successfully to establish." Hart indicated that the coalition would hold its first annual convention around June of 1980. □



City Gives Federal Funds To Hilton Hotel For North Loop Project

The city of Chicago is putting the finishing touches on a more than \$1 billion redevelopment plan for the North Loop — the biggest downtown commercial project ever undertaken by a major U.S. city. But critics of the project, including Alderman Martin Oberman (43rd) and neighborhood groups, charge that the city is misusing federal funds to finance the construction of a luxury Hilton Hotel on the banks of the Chicago River. Oberman has also accused the city of "giving away to Hilton all future planning of the North Loop," in a "sweetheart deal" which "smacks of Chicago politics." The Hilton Corporation donated \$10,500 to Jane Byrne's mayoral campaign — the largest single donation she received.

The North Loop project which is slated to cover a seven block area bounded by State, LaSalle, Wacker and Washington is part of the city's

masterplan to make downtown Chicago more attractive to private business and upper income residents. To pay for the billion dollar project Mayor Byrne, the federal government and Continental Bank have arranged a nifty scheme.

The land where Hilton wants to build its "flagship" hotel will cost the city between \$21 and \$29 million to acquire and clear. But Hilton will only have to pay the city \$8.7 million! The rest of the cost will be paid for by a \$7.9 million grant from HUD's Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) program and Chicago taxpayers. Continental Bank and other leading banks have also agreed to loan the city \$50 million to acquire and redevelop additional properties in the seven block area. Besides the Hilton, the city plans to build skyscrapers, luxury office buildings, a J.C. Penney store and per-

haps some "legitimate" theaters near State and Lake to replace the popular (but presumably "illegitimate") movie houses. Hilton also wants a promise from the city that the Greyhound Bus station on Randolph St. will be relocated.

The original purpose of the UDAG program was to make funds available

Hilton gave \$10,500 to Jane Byrne's campaign — the largest single donation she received.

to revitalize "economically distressed" areas of major cities. Federal guidelines state that UDAG projects must demonstrate that they will stimulate business and industry, lead to permanent employment and increase low and moderate income housing. A recent analysis of UDAG-funded projects across the country shows that the majority of money has been spent by cities to finance downtown commercial projects like the North Loop shopping malls, convention centers, hotels and skyscrapers. In 1978, HUD gave away more than \$489 million in UDAG funds. Of that amount, hotel projects like the proposed Hilton got more than industrial projects and twice as much as neighborhoods!

Spokesmen for the Hilton and the city praise the North Loop project and the proposed luxury hotel because it will revitalize North Michigan Avenue and bring in about 2,200 new jobs. This includes about 560 jobs in retail shops which will be located at the street level. But studies of the hotel industry show that hotel jobs rarely lead to permanent employment. Most hotel work is part-time and seasonal which means a high turnover rate and low pay.



The Conrad Hilton Hotel will leave S. Michigan Avenue when a new luxury Hilton is built in the North Loop. Local residents and businesses say the old Hilton will be sold and turned into a condominium for the rich.

Weekly wages for hotel employees average about \$119 a week — just over half of what the average worker in private industry earns!

Small businesses along South Wabash near the old Hilton at 720 S. Michigan fear that Hilton's leaving will create a "distressed" area and put them out of business. Mr. James Kalas, manager of the Wabash Cafeteria at Wabash and Balboa, which has served customers for more than 40 years, says that when Hilton moves, "That's it. The Hilton's been on the decline for a long time. I hear the complaints. They're just not keeping up the rooms like they used to. That hotel is in bad shape." The Wabash cafeteria used to attract customers from the Hilton and the old YMCA hotel where a person could get a room for \$34 a week. But that too recently closed down. "Businesses come and go," says Kalas. "I remember when there was a cosmetic factory right across the street with 400-500 workers. What we need is more businesses down here."

What will happen to the old Hilton at 720 S. Michigan? Most hotel workers and local businessmen say that the building will probably be sold and turned into condominiums. "But we could use some low and moderate priced apartments there, too," observes John Dilworth of Cleo's Disco on S. Wabash. Hilton's leaving is just another example of "business abandoning the area."

The city of Chicago is about to sign a contract with the Hilton Corporation for the North Loop land. According to Oberman that contract "gives away to Hilton the power to plan the redevelopment of the North Loop. It specifically states that Hilton will have veto power over any changes in the city's plan for the North Loop previously approved by the city council. Oberman and several other aldermen tried unsuccessfully to halt the sale of the land to the Hilton when they proposed to send the ordinance authorizing the sale back to committee. But the city council rejected their proposal. □

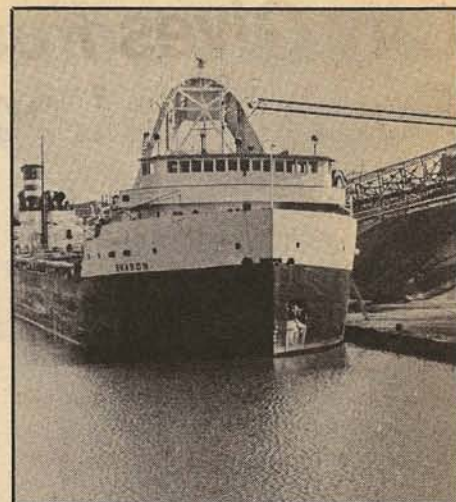
City Delays Decision On Chicago Port Leases

Last month Mayor Byrne announced that all leases with the Chicago Port District were under investigation for "hanky panky." City hall and the newspapers sounded the alarm when officials learned that some land being leased by the Port District to Bulk Terminals for close to \$200 an acre per year was being subleased to Shell Oil Company for nearly \$3,450 per acre! The land under question is in Alderman Edward Vrdolyak's 10th ward.

The Chicago Port District was set up by the state in 1951 to provide a service to shipping companies which wanted to use Lake Calumet and Lake Michigan to transport goods. The port authority is an independent tax district, like the Sanitary District, which means it has authority to sell revenue bonds (\$24 million to date) and collect rents and fees from companies which use the dock, terminals, and warehouses along the port.

In 1960 the Port District signed a 66-year lease with Bulk Terminals and agreed to rent them 178 acres of land at Calumet Harbor. This brings the Port District about \$35,000 a year. Bulk subleased some of the land to other firms including Shell Oil. *Crain's Chicago Business* reports that "Shell Oil hasn't been using the land and wants to sell the sublease to the U.S. Steel Supply Company which plans a new painting facility." The new plant is expected initially to bring in 60 new jobs.

After years of decline and a significant loss in jobs along the port, the Port District finally decided to build a modern, containerized port at Iroquois Landing (at Calumet River and Lake



In the 1960's 43 international shipping companies used the Chicago Port. There is hardly a ship in the port today.

Michigan). International shipping requires ports which can handle "container" freight — big weatherproof steel boxes, lifted from ships by cranes and placed on flatbed trucks and rail cars. The new port is being financed by the state which gave the city a \$15 million loan. It is scheduled for opening in 1980.

The decline in the port's business has led to severe unemployment among longshoremen and other people who work in shipping-related jobs. Eight international shipping companies use the port today compared to 43 in the 1960's. The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) once employed 1100 men living in the Chicago area but today represents 650. Only 275 work full time. Harrison Taylor, president of the ILA in Chicago stated earlier this year, "We've tried to get our workers jobs in this field, but we can't. We've tried to make our contracts flexible to make it attractive to employers. But there's not a ship in the port today. Business has been declining steadily since 1973. As Chicago goes so will the other Great Lakes ports. They depend on Chicago to attract business."

Now that the Port District has approved Bulk Terminal's decision to sell the sublease to U.S. Steel, the city council is expected to give approval to the zoning change. □

Lawsuit Demands Release Of Byrne Transition Team Reports

A suit to force the release of Mayor Byrne's Transition Team reports has been working its way through the Circuit Court since June. The plaintiff in the case is Rob Warden, former reporter for the *Chicago Daily News*, presently a free-lance investigative journalist and editor of the *Chicago Lawyer* (published by the Chicago Council of Lawyers).

The suit contends that Mayor Byrne is obligated to release the transition reports by a Chicago ordinance that was amended this March.

The ordinance requires the mayor and all department, commission and agency heads to turn over all reports prepared by independent consultants or contractors to the Municipal Reference Library within five days of their receipt of the reports. Mayor Byrne received the transition reports on April

26, but has not yet turned copies over to the librarian.

Warden has requested to see the reports as a citizen and a journalist.

In an interview in the *Chicago Lawyer* (June 4), Lou Massotti, who directed the transition teams, explained when he first noticed that the new mayor might be disenchanted with the whole project. "The communications began to atrophy (degenerate) as other things began to take her attention. When she went to Palm Springs...she developed some of her own ideas (Palm Springs refers to the palatial estate of Chicago developer Harry Chaddick). By the time she returned and we had met that following Sunday, she had already determined many things.

Elsewhere in the interview Massotti revealed the contents of the reports.

"We submitted six volumes...on jobs and the economy, neighborhood revitalization...department evaluations...new programs...background documents on the North Loop redevelopment plan, senior citizens' needs...mental health... health issues.... We did an inventory of civil rights suits pending against the city...a paper on immigration policy because the mayor had gotten embroiled in a controversy with the Latino community over her position on undocumented workers...."

In a 16-page response to Warden's complaint, the Corporation Counsel, acting as attorney for Mayor Byrne, outlines the reasons why the mayor should not have to release the documents and concludes, "The 'right to know' must be tempered by the guarantees and protections of the laws against invasion of privacy...." □

Helen Shiller Highlights OCS Forum On North Lake View Neighborhood

(October 2, 1979) Homeowners and renters filled the meeting room at the Rizal Community Center, 1332 W. Irving Park last month as Operation Community Solution (OCS) held a forum. Community leader Helen Shiller spoke with local residents about their problems — rising rents, recent fires, increased insurance rates and the growing fear that inflation may force the families to sell their homes.

"Some of us have been in the neighborhood for 20 to 30 years and we want to stay for 20 or 30 more. But if I can't afford to stay and I can't afford to move — what the heck am I going to do?" Another man, sitting in the back of the room, nodded his head. There had been several fires in the area recently and the insurance company just raised his rates.

A few weeks before the forum, community residents and staff from Operation Community Solution conducted a door-to-door housing survey of more than 300 homeowners and renters in the western part of the 46th ward. The results of the survey showed that the area was experiencing what had happened in New Town. "The buildings are in good shape, the property is desirable," said Ms. Shiller, "but the cost of maintaining your home is gone beyond what a moderate-income

homeowner can afford. Absentee landlords can charge higher rents without maintaining the buildings because no one is forcing them to. Owners begin to sell and real estate speculators come in and inflate the prices of the buildings. Moderate income families can no longer afford to stay. They move out and are replaced by upper-class families moving back from the suburbs." Urban planners call this "gentrification."

Ms. Shiller suggested some methods to resist real estate speculation in the neighborhood. "A community board can draw up its own plans and programs that reflect the needs and concerns of the current residents."

The group acted quickly and decided to form a community board. Volunteers signed up that evening to find space in the community where a legal clinic and community meetings could be held regularly. □

New Transit Plan Favors Downtown Business

Details of a plan to spend more than \$2 billion on public transportation for the Chicago area will be unveiled by Mayor Byrne over the next two months, KEEP STRONG has learned. The massive plan will concentrate on more rapid, modernized transportation to the downtown Loop and out to O'Hare airport. The \$2 billion coming from the federal government was made available earlier this year when Mayor Byrne and Illinois Governor James Thompson agreed to abandon the controversial Crosstown Expressway and Franklin Street subway.

Critics of the plan argue that it does not address the problems facing millions of Chicagoans who could be "locked in" this winter. Spokespersons for community groups insist that the plan is another step towards the may-

Critics of the \$2 billion transit project say if you're lucky enough to get a job in the suburbs, "you can bet you'll lose it this winter."

or's vision of "one (young, White affluent) Chicago." They point to thousands of laborers who could not get to work, senior citizens unable to shop, see a doctor or even cash pension and assistance checks and businesses that had to fold, victims of last winter's transportation crunch.

The proposal contemplates tearing down the famous Chicago "L" which Byrne calls "too loud and unsightly" to make room for new business and luxury housing along Wells, Franklin and Wabash. A special report for the city,

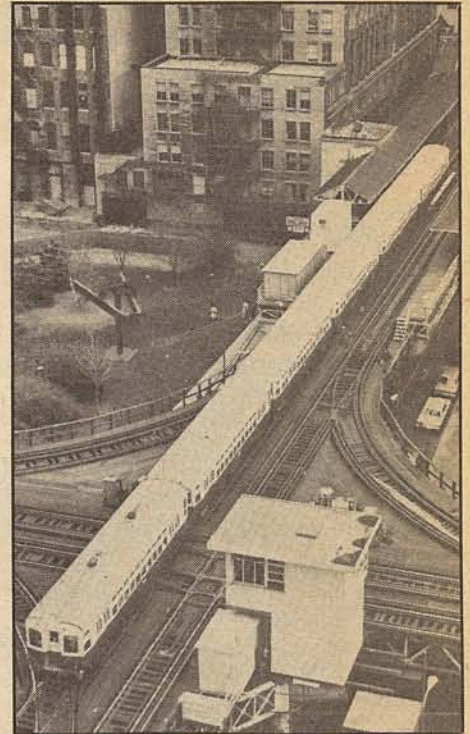
conducted by the Urban Mass Transit District Administration (UMTDA) recommended that these streets could be remodeled after the fashionable Avenue of the Americas in New York City.

The highlight of the new transit plan will be the construction of a new subway connecting the downtown Loop with the southwest side and extending the Jefferson Park subway to O'Hare airport. This will directly benefit the downtown business and financial institutions as well as new corporate offices located in industrial parks on the southwest side.

Another feature of Byrne's new transportation plan is the construction of a monorail connecting the near north side "gold coast" with McCormick Place where many business conventions are currently held. A monorail is a single, large overhead rail from which transit cars are suspended. A second monorail would be built to connect Navy Pier with the downtown Loop. Navy Pier is scheduled to be renovated as an indoor/outdoor mall with small restaurants and businesses. The Chicago Public Building Commission recently sold \$29 million in revenue bonds to begin this renovation.

At the other end, a recent report by a federal agency indicates a movement of manufacturing jobs out of the city and the county towards the surrounding counties. The report shows that Cook County lost 62,000 manufacturing jobs between 1972 and 1977 while the five surrounding counties gained more than 150,000 in total jobs in the same period:

A study by Nina Klarich, assistant vice-president of the First National Bank of Chicago, that was released with the larger federal report, "showed that between 1969 and 1977...95



The new transit plan for Chicago calls for tearing down the famous "L" to make room for new businesses and luxury housing downtown.

percent of the new business in the five collar counties came from Cook County and nearly 75 percent of the companies leaving Cook County established new facilities in the five county region."

Opponents of the \$2 billion project argue that "it is generally difficult to get work, it is more difficult for a city resident to get in on the march of jobs to the suburbs. If you're lucky enough to hook up a job out there, you can bet you'll lose it this winter."

To ensure that Chicagoans get to work this winter the city announced last month that the CTA will spend more than \$16 million on a winterization program to prevent another disastrous breakdown of CTA trains and buses. While the \$2 billion transit plan does not appear to include the real improvements for the "L" trains and buses that take people to their jobs, Mayor Byrne has assured Chicago residents: "None of you will have to worry. You'll all get to work." □

Anti-Abortion Bill May Soon Become Law In Illinois

by Debbie Wolen

(Springfield, Ill.) The Illinois State Senate voted last month to override Governor Thompson's veto of an anti-abortion bill which will severely limit a woman's right to legally obtain a safe abortion. Sponsored by State Senator LeRoy Lemke (D-Chicago) the bill was called "unconstitutional" by Governor Thompson and several senators.

The Illinois House must also vote to override the veto before the bill becomes law. If passed, the new law would provide:

- That the state recognizes the fetus as a human being from the time of conception;
- Doctors who fail to tell women that intrauterine devices (IUD's or coils), certain birth control pills and post-rape treatment cause abortion face jail terms;
- A doctor must certify that an abortion is necessary or face felony charges;

- Women may only obtain an abortion after giving "informed consent." Women under 18 must get parental consent; married women must consult

right to force his victim to give birth to the product of his crime;

- Pre-natal tests for genetic defects (amniocentesis) with the intent of

The father of the fetus, married or not, may get a court order to prevent the abortion.

with their husbands. A doctor must provide a woman with a description of the fetal characteristics and written material that describes the fetus as a person. Finally, a woman must be told that the state of Illinois believes abortion is wrong and disapproves of the woman's decision. After the woman gives "informed consent" she must wait 24 hours to have the abortion.

- The father of the fetus, married or not, may get a court order to prevent the abortion. Supporters of the bill concede that this gives a rapist the legal

abortion, are illegal. (The Right-to-Life movement was recently successful in pressuring the March of Dimes to abandon their pre-natal amniocentesis program).

- A doctor must try to save the fetus just as in childbirth. The woman must be informed of pain-killers for the fetus. A doctor who fails to do so may be charged with a felony;
- An abortion resulting in live birth is termed "abandonment" by the juvenile court, resulting in the loss of all parental rights for the woman, even if the abortion is performed to save her



Chicago area women rally last month to demand legislation for safe and legal abortions in Illinois. The growing national movement for reproductive rights believes that every woman has a right to decide whether and when she will have children and demands protection from forced sterilization.

life. Married women lose all parental rights while their husbands retain theirs.

Despite the fact that public opinion surveys show that 55-70 percent of the people support a woman's right to choose, the Illinois State Legislature has continued to draft and pass restrictive abortion bills. Legislation such as the Lemke bill makes clear that legislators are not trying to protect women from unscrupulous abortion profiteers. By voting for severe restrictions on women's reproductive rights, they are not representing their constituencies. Religion plays a major role since a large majority of Catholic legislators vote anti-abortion. Others reflect anti-women and sexual prudery in their voting.

The new Illinois law states that a woman under 18 must have her parents' consent to get an abortion.

Some state legislators including Rep. Danny O'Brien (D-Chicago) have even voiced support for the proposed Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution demanding protection for fetal rights. Spokespersons for the reproductive rights movement point out that conservative legislators have been pressured by well-funded, anti-abortion lobby groups whose leadership supports other conservative groups. Conservative political leaders see the anti-abortion issue as a major step state-by-state as they work to build a national political party.

If the House votes to override the governor's veto the bill officially becomes law. Informed sources contend that the constitutionality of the new law will undoubtedly be tested in the Supreme Court by the ACLU. □

Debbie Wolen works with Women Organized For Reproductive Choice (W.O.R.C.) in the Chicago area.




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Looking Back

by Eugene Feldman

He came from Scotland to become a merchant in Illinois, but in the 1840's was called a "criminal" for helping slaves escape to freedom.

This is the exciting story of John Hossack, an Ottawa, Illinois businessman who used his fists when necessary as well as his wits to fight the slavery men. He helped runaway slaves reach freedom in Canada by way of a secret route called the "underground railway." This article tells how he rescued John Grey, a slave who had run away from his master in Missouri but was caught by slave catchers. It will tell how John Hossack and his freedom loving friends actually fought the slave catchers, helped Grey run out of a crowded courtroom away from the U.S. Marshals and into a waiting carriage that would take him to Milwaukee and then on to a Lake Michigan steamer bound for free Canada.

Illinois, by the Ordinance of 1787, was set up as free territory but the slaveowners in it kept their slaves, legally lengthened their years of slavery, found all kinds of loopholes to keep Il-

Eugene Feldman teaches history at Columbia College and is on the staff at the DuSable Museum.

John Hossack

An Illinois "Conductor" On The Underground Railroad

linois open to the huge evil of bondage of human beings. There was a running fight between those in Illinois who believed in freedom and those who wanted to get rich off of the misery and labor of others. John Hossack belonged to those who wanted to abolish slavery and these were called "abolitionists." They existed all through our country and there were many White people of the South who were abolitionists as well. In future articles we will tell about them also.

John Hossack was born in Scotland in 1806. Scotland believed in freedom. It opened its churches, schools and life to oppressed from other nations. It was here that Robert Burns, the land's famous poet, sang of the merits of honest labor, the beauties of the poor as against those who lived off of the work of others. It was here that even a number of American Blacks attended college because schools in their own native land were closed to them. Glasgow University was especially such a center. And it was here that John Hossack first breathed his free air.

When he first came to the "New World" he settled in Quebec, Canada and there worked with an uncle in his confectionary store. Later he worked as a contractor on the "Long Soo" canal on the Saint Lawrence river. Still later, he came to Illinois and settled near Chicago. Here he opened a prairie farm in Cook County and here also he began to hide runaway slaves. Later he was to assist in the building of a bridge over the Illinois River and this was then

to stimulate the shipment of grain, lumber and other commodities through Chicago. He became a lumber and grain merchant, built a large house in growing Ottawa, Illinois and there had his family. He had married Miss Martha Lens and the two together worked for freedom. Mrs. Hossack helped prepare meals, gather clothing, and even bind wounds of escaped slaves. It is most regrettable that in historical record keeping the accounts, mostly of what men did, were the only ones kept.

In 1844 three escaped slaves made their way to John Hossack's farm. Hossack housed them for the night and in the morning he hitched up his wagon to take them to Chicago just 22 miles away. On the way he encountered proslavery men who attacked him with derogatory words and stones. But his team of horses was fast and they lucki-



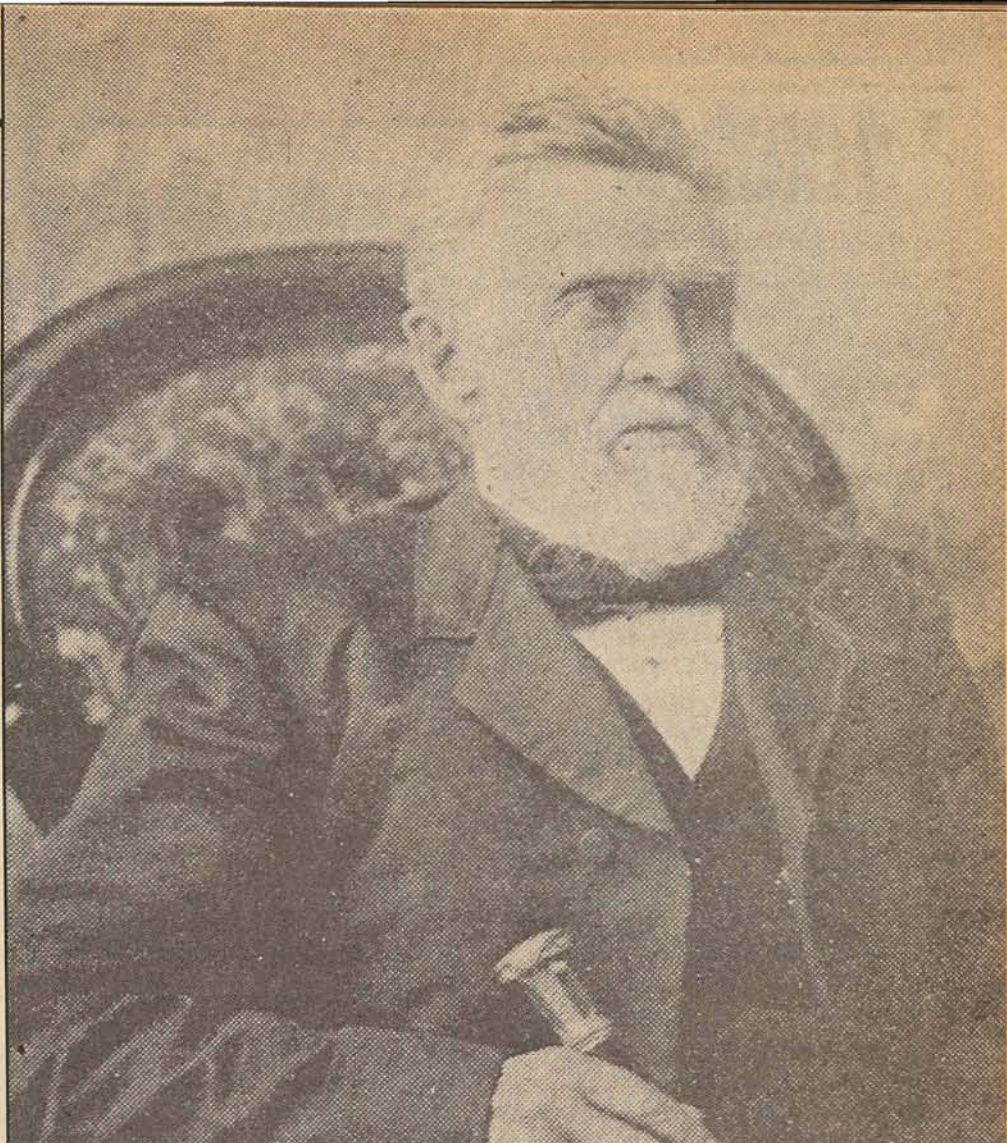
ly escaped the ordeal. They arrived in Chicago and drove to the home of Dr. C.V. Dyer, one of Chicago's most ardent workers on the underground railroad. For 20 years John Hossack and his wife engaged in similar experiences helping slaves escape, housing them, feeding them and transporting them on to Chicago and then to Canada. The lives of the Hossacks, their friends and the slaves were always in jeopardy, always in great risk of attack.

In 1859 a slave, John Grey, who belonged to Richard Phillips, a planter living near Madrid, Missouri, escaped. Missouri was a slave state. John Grey made his way carefully to Illinois but was captured by slave hunters in Union County. The slave catchers and their

For the crime of helping a slave to freedom, John Hossack and 15 others were taken to Chicago and sent to jail.

captive John Grey were on their way to Ottawa where Hossack lived. A worker on the underground railway by the name of Hough sent a telegram to Hossack to watch out for the slave, Grey and his captors when they arrived in Ottawa. The telegram said, "Meet friends at depot." That was enough for Hossack. He went down to the train station and there he saw the group of slave catchers. They had the slave Grey by a rope that was tied to his neck. It was a leash and there was a chain that was attached to his leg. U.S. Marshals, private guards, and the slave catchers were present to see to it that the slave Grey did not escape.

It was then that Hossack and his friends went into action. Church bells throughout Ottawa rang out the danger to liberty. Ottawa townspeople gathered in the town's center. They demanded that the slave go free. But the



John Hossack refused to obey the Fugitive Slave Law that required Americans to catch runaway slaves. For more than 20 years he and his wife helped slaves along the "underground railroad" to Chicago and on to Canada where they could live as free people.

law of the United States government said otherwise. It said that under the Fugitive Slave Law all were required to run down a slave and bring him or her back to the "master." If anyone upset this law he could be put in jail. If anyone acted to help the slave gain freedom instead of capturing him and bringing him back to slavery that person could be placed in prison for a long term. But in spite of that Hossack and his friends and the townspeople of Ottawa acted for freedom. A court session, challenging the right of the master to return Grey to a life of slavery was held.

The Ottawa court room was filled with friends of freedom. They began to realize that the judge in the case was

unsympathetic so they planned for freedom in their own way. They got a carriage and a team of fast horses and had it waiting outside of the courthouse. Suddenly a path through the large crowd of people in the courtroom was made by the anti-slavery workers. One of their number shouted to the slave Grey, "If you want your liberty come!" And the slave began to struggle with his holders, the U.S. Marshals. But Hossack and his friends fought them and Grey ran to the carriage. Then just as the pre-arranged driver was to start out on their escape a pro-slavery man grabbed the horses' lines and held them from moving. But Hossack came and raised his hand against the man and the man fled. The carriage

Looking Back

continued

was on its way to Milwaukee, a Lake Michigan steamer and free Canada.

For this "crime" of helping a slave reach freedom, Hossack, Dr. Stout, his strong co-worker, and fifteen others were indicted. They were taken to Chicago and lodged in jail. The court imposed a \$100 fine, a sentence of 10 days in jail, and court costs of \$591.

The mayor of Chicago at that time was John Wentworth. He was very sympathetic to John Hossack and the work he and his freedom loving friends were doing. He wrote in the Chicago papers asking that Chicagoans visit John Hossack and his friends and that they help pay their fines. This is what he said:

"Scotchmen, patriots and citizens, visit John Hossack, remember our friends of freedom as bound with them. Let these fines and costs be paid."

The mayor himself brought his carriage to jail and took Hossack out riding in it. Chicagoans of all classes brought Hossack cakes, candy, meals of the best kind to his cell and to the cells of his fellow freedom workers. Even musicians came to play their violins and other instruments to honor the men of liberty with appropriate music.

John Hossack was strong in his actions and words for freedom. He wanted a nation built on free labor. He wanted to do all he could to help establish this. When the judge stood before him in court and imposed his jail sentence and fines against him John Hossack did not back down. He stood up and spoke boldly. He saw the Fugitive Slave Act that required Americans to help catch runaway slaves as greatly wrong and he refused to obey it. This is what he said about the law:

"Others may have their doubts as to their duty under this law, I sir have none!...send me a law bidding me to rob or murder my neighbor; I must

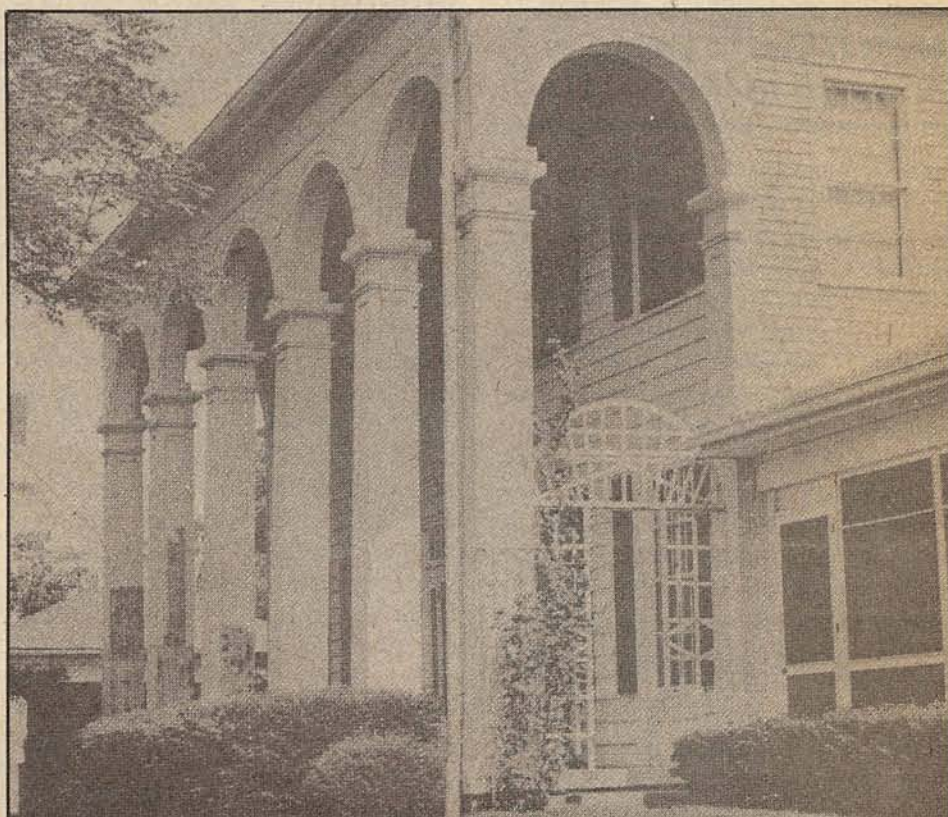
decline to obey it. I can suffer but I must not do wrong. Yea, send me a law bidding me stop my ears to the cry of the poor, I can suffer the loss of all these hands have earned, I can suffer bonds and imprisonment, yes, God helping me, I can give up my life, but I cannot knowingly trample upon the law of my God nor upon the bleeding, prostrate form of my fellow man."

During the Civil War John Hossack was right in front in collecting funds, food, medicine for the sick and wounded soldiers who were helping in the struggle against the slave owner's state known as the Confederacy. He helped, as best he could, the Soldier's Aid Society, because he knew that this was an important way he could assist the cause of liberty. He continued in the grain and lumber business but in 1873 he retired because by that time he had become completely blind. He and his wife were the parents of 11 children. In 1883 they celebrated their golden anniversa-

ry and received friends and family who came to honor the couple who had devoted their lives to freedom work.

He died in November, 1891. His body was in its casket in the east parlor of his large home, the home that had been a haven to so many on their way to freedom. Today the home has been rightly named to the National Register of Historic Places. His body was borne by his sons and sons-in-law to the final resting place. The last words were said by his minister, the Rev. Warren F. Day. the Rev. Day spoke of John Hossack's raising a family, establishing a business and building the community but what impressed the Rev. Day most was his work for the freedom of Black people and the love of liberty throughout his life.

This is the legacy John and Martha Hossack and their friends have left for us: to continue to work for their important principles, to work for peace and for love and against prejudice and war. □



John Hossack's house in Ottawa, Illinois was a famous station in the underground railroad for runaway slaves on their way to Canada.

The Federation Of Cuban Women

Before 1959 few women were employed. Those who worked outside the home were mostly maids and prostitutes. Today Cuban women have education, jobs, and a new self-respect. Their grass roots organization has helped make these changes.

The following is an interview with three members of the Federation of Cuban Women: Yolanda Ferrer, Maria Isabel Acerado and Catherine Ribas. The Federation of Cuban Women has over 2,300,000 members — more than 80 percent of the female population of Cuba over the age of 14. It is a grass roots organization based at the community level in groups of about 50 to 80 women. They elect their own leadership and delegates to the citywide, county (provincial) and national levels of their organization. These women, some of whom are employed and some who work at home, volunteer their time to carry out the work of the Federation in health, education, social work and production, politics and

study. Their main goal is to work to create the conditions that will allow women to be full participants in every aspect of building a new society.

KEEP STRONG: Would you begin by telling us a little about what life was like for women before the Revolution?

CUBAN WOMEN: Before the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, the situation of Cuban women was marked by the general conditions our people were living in. It was a society where exploitation was the main fact of life — exploitation of workers, racial discrimination, unemployment, corruption, vices and, of course, discrimination against women. Women suf-



***"We had the experience of the past society
where the shops were full of food.
But outside the children were
without shoes and begging."***

ferred very violently. For example, very few women were employed — 190,000 women had jobs; this was about 11 or 12 percent of the whole work force. The majority of these women were working as maids. They had hardly any rights to get any benefits as working women. There were no day care centers to educate small children properly.

The situation of children was also very difficult. The infant mortality rate was 60 deaths per every thousand born alive. More than 50 percent of our children did not attend school. We had no schools in the rural areas. And yet we had over 10,000 unemployed school teachers!

There was over 33 percent unemployment for our people. Society did not allow the family to obtain the basic services it needed. How to educate their children? How to get money in case of illness? There were no benefits if a person had to stop work because of illness. This situation of terrible insecurity about the necessities of life affected the majority of Cuban families.

Women suffered as part of the poor and as women. We had many illiterate people, yet there was greater illiteracy among women. Many women were forced into prostitution. Such were the consequences of a society based on exploitation of mankind.

KEEP STRONG: What was the response of the U.S. government to the victory of the Revolution and how did this affect the situation in Cuba?

CUBAN WOMEN: In the middle of this situation of oppression that our people lived in the majority got together to fight for their rights. After they struggled, in 1959 the Revolution triumphed.

This, for the U.S., meant another defeat. They had had great profits coming out of our small country. Our country now had total independence. And this was a shock for the U.S. So they took different types of hostile measures against our people.

The U.S. government stopped buying sugar from us. That was the product through which we had lived for many years because our economy was dependent and those few who controlled the wealth did not allow other industry to develop.

The U.S. also cut off trade in fuel with us. They declared an economic blockade which meant that our country could not receive medicine, spare parts (parts that were necessary to our underdeveloped industry that was totally based on U.S. technology). They even kept other capitalist countries from trading with us. They made a "black list" of all ships that touched a Cuban port. Of course, these actions were trying to paralyze our revolution.

There were two major factors that kept our revolution from being smashed.

In the first place the Cuban people decided to defend the Revolution and to build — by all means — a better society. This meant that every day with

CUBA: BACKGROUND

- Cuba was a Spanish colony for several hundred years until 1898 when the Cuban people waged a successful war of independence that was interrupted when the U.S. invaded Cuba and brought it under U.S. domination.
- After that time Cuba lost control of her economic and political life to the U.S. and the small group of wealthy Cubans kept in power by U.S. interests with money and arms. Cuba also became a haven for U.S. mobsters who made its capital city of Havana into a playground for the rich, filled with gambling and prostitution.
- In 1959, after years of struggle, the Cuban Revolution won victory against Batista, a corrupt dictator who had U.S. backing.
- In 1979, the Cuban people celebrated the 20th anniversary of their new independence and noted that their advances to develop their country on their own terms had survived one of the most intense campaigns ever waged by the CIA as well as an invasion by U.S. trained and financed troops.

more courage our people could face sacrifices that were necessary in order to succeed.

We also have to point out the cooperation that the Soviet Union gave us in that difficult moment. The U.S. stopped buying sugar. The Soviet Union bought it at a stable price with no political conditions attached. The U.S. cut off fuel from us, so we received fuel from the Soviet Union. This aid has not in any way compromised our independence.

The U.S. economic boycott is still being imposed on Cuba and we think that this measure is totally unjust and totally illegal.

KEEP STRONG: In those early, difficult days when there wasn't enough food to go around, what measures were taken to provide for the children?

CUBAN WOMEN: In this situation that we faced at the beginning of the Revolution a fundamental principle was established which our whole society is based on. This principle was that the few things that we had are to be shared among everybody equally.

We think that the objective of our society is to achieve equality of *all* the citizens — a real equality. Not an equality that says in quotation marks that everybody can have access to certain possibilities. Because in reality that means that everyone can have access, but those that have money get it! For us, it was fundamental to have equal distribution of all our goods so that everyone would have the basic things they need. So this is why we established the ration book. For equality.



The three representatives of the Federation explained how day care centers were begun. There are now more than 720 for the children of working mothers.

We had the experience of the past society — where the shops were full of food. The department stores had the latest fashions. This was inside the stores. But outside the children were without shoes and begging. The poor people, the working people — although those things were in the shops, they couldn't afford to buy them. So all of our efforts were directed to eliminate this.

In the case of the children, and the elderly too, we can say that the most dedicated efforts — the loveliest efforts have been done precisely for them.

At this moment in Latin America over 3 million children die from hunger and malnutrition. But in our country all the children are guaranteed a liter of milk, their snacks, in some of the schools they have their lunch provided. They have special diets of some products which because of our small production we can't give out to everyone. But we do have them for our children. The feeding of all the children is a priority in our country. So this is why we can say today that in our society the only ones who are privileged in food are those who are ill, the children and the elderly.

KEEP STRONG: How did the Federation of Cuban Women begin?

CUBAN WOMEN: From the very beginning of the triumph of the Revolution, there was great concern that

women should have full participation in the building of the new society. Cuban women had played a very big role in all parts of our struggle for independence — over the course of 100 years. Of course, it was only fair that women should have the right to actively participate in the construction of the new society.

The Federation was organized in 1960 to work to insure the full participation of women.

KEEP STRONG: Would you describe the programs of the Federation for us?

CUBAN WOMEN: There is so much. The main areas are education, health, social work and production, political work, and integrating women into the labor force. But we have been active in all areas of society as well.

KEEP STRONG: Do women at work have the same rights as men?

CUBAN WOMEN: Certainly. Our labor legislation protects men and women. The Social Security Law allows our workers when they are sick — men and women — to receive 40 percent of their regular salary if they are in the hospital and 50 percent if they are at home — for up to one year. (The reason it is 40 percent if you are in the hospital is because your medical attention, food and clothes are received absolutely free in the

"In our country the basic resources belong to the people as a whole. That means the money they make can go back to providing services to the people who are, after all, the ones who do the work."

hospital.) In case the illness is caused by something at work this pension is 60 percent if you are in the hospital and 70 percent if you are at home. Also for a whole year.

If after this year is over and the person isn't able to go back to work she or he would receive a retirement pension — enough to be able to live in a decent way for the rest of their life.

All of our workers — men and women — have the right for a month's vacation during a year of work. With total salary. And there are vacation plans which reduce the price for the workers so all the family can par-

ticipate in the vacation.

In addition, the maternity leave law for women provides that after her baby is born she receives one full day with pay each month for a year to take the baby to the doctor for a check-up. Maternity leave is 18 weeks. If she is not able to go back to work then, her job will be kept open for her for a full year.

KEEP STRONG What types of work do women do in Cuba?

CUBAN WOMEN: Women are becoming integrated into the labor force more

and more. About a third of the work force are women. They make up 20 percent of those who work in industries, 11 percent of those in construction, and over 32 percent of those who work in science and technology. These areas had never been open to women before.

KEEP STRONG: What is the cost of health care in Cuba?

CUBAN WOMEN: Health care is absolutely free. Medical care is organized with polyclinics in the community and then in hospitals. Health care works



"People elect their representatives to government starting at the local level. There are no expensive ad campaigns. Here people study the biographies of candidates for a town assembly."

"Our Federation is working to make it possible for women to be full participants in all aspects of building our new society. We have made great progress.... There is still much to do."

under the principle of prevention. They carry out work in the community, very often taking health care to the homes in order to check up on the health of the citizens who belong to a polyclinic (community clinic).

The clinic is linked very closely with the whole community. That is why progress like the decrease of the infant mortality rate and also the decrease of mother's mortality rate and the control of diseases like diptheria and polio has been possible. It has also allowed

us to detect illnesses early. Medical attention in hospitals is also absolutely free.

KEEP STRONG: What is the cost of education?

CUBAN WOMEN: Education is absolutely free. The school books are absolutely free.

KEEP STRONG: Does this include college too?

CUBAN WOMEN: Yes.

KEEP STRONG: What about day care centers?

CUBAN WOMEN: At the moment there is a small fee in day care centers which take children under six years old. Not for the educational part, but for all of the additional services — clothing and food which the children receive there. The cost to the parents is according to their income and is a small fee.

KEEP STRONG: Where does the money come from to provide these services?

CUBAN WOMEN: In our country the basic resources are not owned by individuals. They belong to the people as a whole. Things like natural resources, factories and so on. That means that the money they make from the work of the people can go back to providing these services to the people who are, after all, the ones who do the work and to whom our economy really belongs.

KEEP STRONG: How do Cuban women cope with inflation and unemployment?

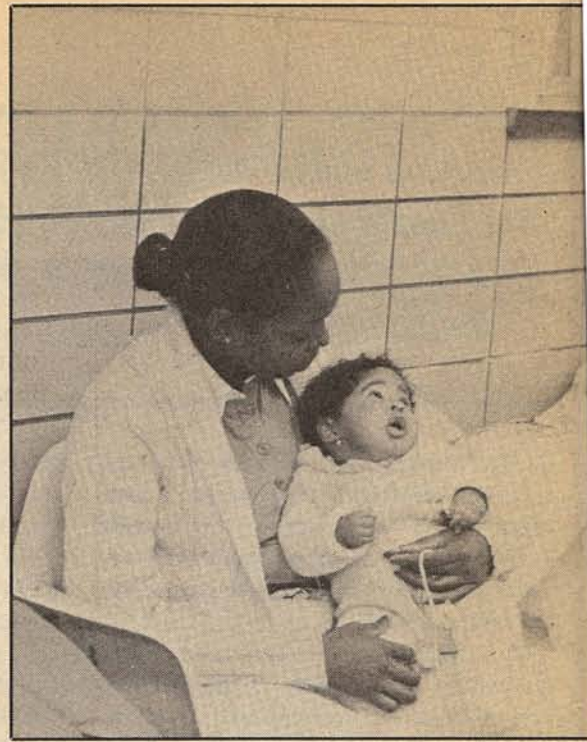
CUBAN WOMEN: In Cuba we have no unemployment, so they don't have to worry about that. We also have managed because of careful planning and because it is one of our priorities not to have inflation. Although that crisis which is serious in the developed countries is much worse in underdeveloped countries. So inflation is something that we don't have either. □



"Education, including college, is absolutely free. For adults there are also classes in work places and in the communities. We have defeated illiteracy."

Cook County Hospital:

The Truth Is Out



Thousands of patients unable to pay the hospital is not the whole story behind the closing of Cook County Hospital....Governor Thompson, the Democratic Machine, the University of Illinois Research Hospital and the "liberal" doctors are the chief actors in one of the most blatant plots of "political blackmail."

After three years of almost continual political debate about the financial crisis at Cook County Hospital, the gloves have come off. Cook County President, George Dunne, powerful

News Analysis By The Editors

head of the democratic machine in this town, and Governor "Big Jim" Thompson have both called for the disbanding of the Health and Hospitals Governing Commission, the appointed board of citizens entrusted with the independent operation of the hospital and its community clinics. The Governing Commission, faced with insufficient funds to meet another payroll and purchase supplies for the hospital, agreed to resign if "that is what it takes to get funds for the hospital." In the words of one political observer

here, "George Dunne has had his tongue in his cheek for three years talking about the financial crisis at Cook County Hospital, because he created it. Now he has taken his tongue out of his cheek and stuck it out at the people of Chicago who fought so hard a decade ago to take the hospital out of his political control and out of his political patronage." In the words of another observer, "It appears to be one of the most blatant and yet successful acts of political blackmail since the banks took over New York City."

"The Blackmailing of Cook County Hospital"

The blackmailing of Cook County Hospital moved in several logical steps, from the point of view of George Dunn, chief blackmailer. First, the Cook County Board passed a law saying that the Governing Commission of the Hospital could not receive more than 25 cents on each dollar collected

by the Cook County Board. The Cook County Board reserved its right to set the limits on the Governing Commission's budget, even though the County Board was responsible for less than half of it. Then the County turned the process of medical reimbursements over to the State.

Thompson's state government followed the same policy on medicaid reimbursement that it has followed on public aid payments generally: it created massive bureaucratic barriers. First, the Illinois Department of Public Aid ruled that all County Hospital medicaid applications would have to be individually verified. The thousands of patients who use the hospital and its outreach centers, who are not on welfare and who are unable to pay bills, each fill out medicaid applications when they are receiving the services of the hospital. In the past these had been verified by checking a certain percentage of them out to be



sure that the hospital was using current state guidelines. The state had been paying on about 80 percent of the claims. But the new system of verifying each claim threw a wrench into the gears.

First, it meant that verification was so slow that the Governing Commission did not receive payments until after eight and nine month delays. This created a cash flow problem for the hospital and kept it constantly in a state of financial crisis. It was this crisis that George Dunne and his army first pointed to as "mismanagement" by the Governing Commission and its executive director James Haughton. Actually of course, the state was at fault.

Second, the state's method of total verification actually meant that thousands of valid claims were rejected. Forty-three percent of the claims rejected were done so with the reason given "non-cooperation with verification." This meant that the verifier or caseworker was not able to reach the person who had used Cook County Hospital or one of its clinics to get "verifying information" and so rejected the claim. They called a couple of times between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and they sent out a couple of letters. Then they

rejected the claim. But the hospital had already provided the service and spent thousands of dollars in doing so. Other reasons for denial were even more ridiculous.

The end result was that the Governing Commission was not able to retrieve more than 30 percent of its medicaid dollars from the state and had to go begging to the County Board for money to stay open. At the County Board, George Dunne always led a well orchestrated criticism of the Governing Commission's "mismanagement" and targeted especially, executive director James Haughton, the highest paid Black official in the state.

At the spring session of the legislature, funds were voted for the Governing Commission to run Cook County Hospital only for a few months, setting the stage for the crisis that occurred in October. The Commission was again unable to meet payrolls and buy supplies. Unable to get emergency action out of the legislature, the Governing Commission went again to the County Board, which came up with just enough money to keep the show going for another two weeks, and then again for another two weeks. Finally, Thompson and Dunne came out with statements on the same day saying that they would support no more funding for the hospital until the Commission was removed. With the gun to its head, the Commission offered to resign.

The Leadership of the Governing Commission and Dr. Haughton

The Governing Commission took control of the Cook County Hospital as the seventies began after a decade of scandal over the political use and abuse of the hospital by the Democratic machine. When the hospital was under the control of the Cook County Board and machine boss George Dunne, thousands of employees were hired through the patronage system. Most were not trained for the jobs they took, many never came to work except to pick up their paychecks. Independent



Dr. James Haughton — Executive Director of the Health and Hospitals Governing Commission. Dr. Haughton firmly believes that poor people should not be given second rate health care.

investigations by the Better Government Association and the Independent Voters of Illinois exposed overcrowding, understaffing and unsanitary conditions. The Black community, primarily served by the hospital, was in an uproar. Under extreme pressure, the County Board gave up control of the hospital to the newly-appointed Health and Hospitals Governing Commission. Dr. James Haughton was brought from New York and hired as its executive director.

Under the Commission and Dr. Haughton's leadership the hospital improved dramatically, finally achieving full hospital accreditation. But problems remained. The County Board had given full civil service protection to their patronage employees at the hospital only a few days before the transfer of power, making it very difficult for them to be removed. Haughton was faced with training personnel who had previously been paid primarily for their ability to get the vote out on election day.

The controversial Haughton had a vision of public health care that leaned towards good preventive health care and away from a crisis system of "last resort." He believed firmly that people should not be given second rate health care just because they are poor. Accordingly, he established a series of

County Hospital

seven community health centers and privately, held the position that the west side hospital should be slightly reduced and modernized and a new hospital should be built on the south side where the lack of hospitals made the need greater.

Haughton's refusal to go along with the patronage machine bosses quickly brought their anger. The political rhetoric and political attacks flew fast and furious. New members replaced old members on the Commission who were more independent and more community minded. George Dunne found the situation unbearable and initiated the careful program of political blackmail that seems now close to conclusion.

The machine, however, was not Haughton and the Governing Commission's only problem. With a declining funding base during a time of monstrous inflation in medical expenses, Haughton and the Commission were faced with the demands of the unionized workers and also of the doctors, who although they were self-proclaimed liberals, were very much a part of the traditional U.S. medical establishment. While the Commission faced terrible and powerful opposition from external political forces, it faced constant harassment from internal forces, whose sometimes just and sometimes power-seeking only demands were certain fuel for George Dunne's attack.

The "Doctors" and the Movement To Save Cook County Hospital

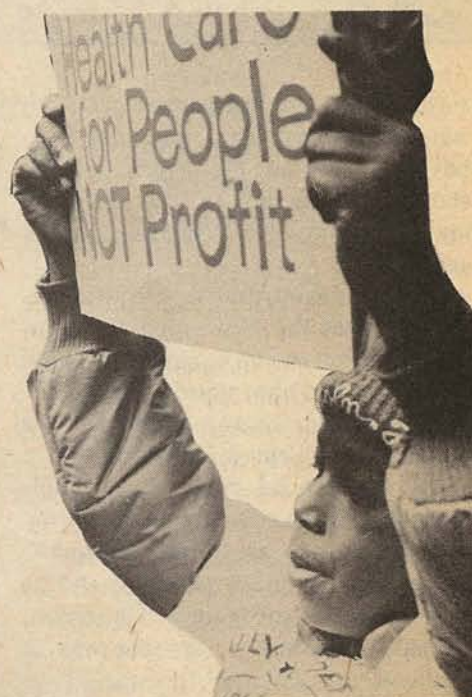
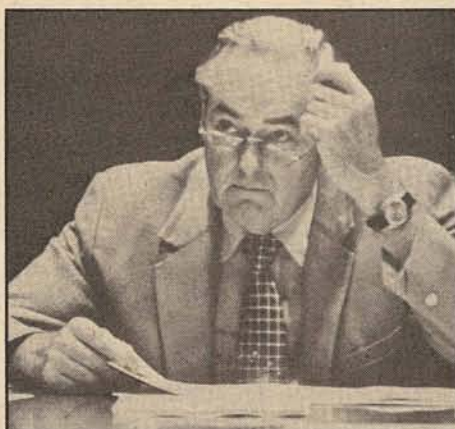
The Commission was originally headed by a person close to the machine and as a body was unable and unenthusiastic about developing com-

The survival of County is a

munity support for the hospital. Dr. Haughton was new to the city. Into the vacuum stepped the young, radical doctors, headed by Quentin Young who headed the Department of Medicine. Young, who had a brief skirmish with the House Committee On UnAmerican Activities over his affiliation with the Communist Party, had become the darling of the liberals and liberal press like the *Sun-Times* and Channel 2's Walter Jacobson. Young used this position to take leadership of

to Haughton's attempt to fire Young. What is now the Committee to Save Cook County Hospital began as the Committee to Save Quentin Young's Job. With the liberal press behind him and a barrage of expensive lawyers, Young kept his job.

At the same time Young was leading the fight against the Commission and Haughton, Young fought off movements for community controlled health centers to affiliate with County, as in Pilsen, and kept community leader-



Cook County Board President George Dunne (above left) and Governor James Thompson (below left) have both called for the disbanding of the Health and Hospitals Governing Commission.

the "movement to save Cook County Hospital." The articulate doctor orchestrated a full-scale attack on Haughton and the Governing Commission, pulling the wide-eyed young radical doctors behind him. This led to a strike by the house staff against the Governing Commission and ultimately

ship at an arm's distance from the movement to save the hospital. Young's attitude was finally shown in his steadfast attack on community control at the Uptown People's Health Center, the Governing Commission's largest outreach center. Even today, when the movement to save Cook

threat to the Chicago 21 Plan.

County is at its height, its ranks are swelled primarily by hospital employees fighting for their jobs, as community organizations stand back, unsure that their participation is really not being asked for in Young's attempt to take Houghton's job.

Even as new Commission members have been appointed, the Commission is way behind in its attempt to mobilize broad community and union support, caught between the political blackmail of the Democratic machine and the Republican Party and the political opportunism of the medical establishment doctors. Meanwhile, waiting in the wings, is the University of Illinois Research Hospital.

The Masterplanners

The west side of Chicago, one of the poorest Black communities in the country, is a clear target for Chicago's "Plan 21." Chicago 21 plans to replace Chicago's poor communities with middle and upper income "revitalized" neighborhoods that will attract young up-and-coming suburbanites and make millions for the real estate magnates. Cook County Hospital and its clinics represent a stabilizing force for this west side community as well as for the many other communities that are and could be served by its outreach health centers. As such the Cook County Hospital is a threat to the Chicago 21 Plan.

Both Governor Thompson and President Dunne indicated in their recent statements that they favored eventually turning over the County to the University of Illinois Research Hospital. This would allow the gradual phasing out of the hospital as a resource for poor people. The outreach clinics would presumably be taken over by the Board of Health, as a source of patronage to the machine in the neighborhoods and, with the affiliation to the U of I Research Hospital,

a source of guinea pigs for federally funded research projects. As the Commission has been fighting for its last breath and as the workers have been marching and demonstrating, KEEP STRONG has learned of private meetings held by Dr. Young with the University of Illinois and the Board of Health, discussing the transition. So finally all the forces of opposition to the Governing Commission have come together.

The Future

The future is, to say the least, uncertain and threatening. There are bright spots. Organized communities throughout the city, badly in need of health care, are fully focused on the situation surrounding Cook County Hospital and,

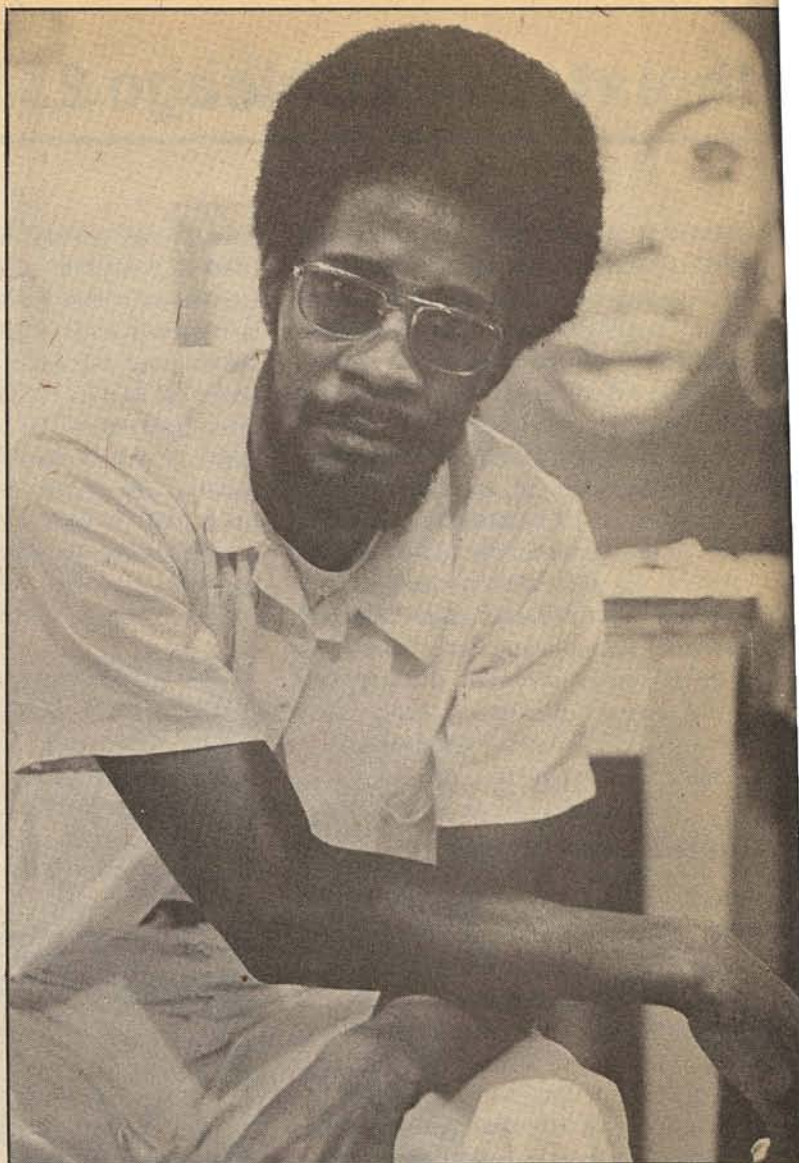
for the first time, analysing the whole picture. The enemies and the masterplans have been exposed. And in the hospital strong Black leadership, the leadership of young doctors and hard-working nurses and support staff who come from the communities the hospital serves, have taken an independent look at the situation and come out in strong support of the Commission. On the other hand, the struggle for Cook County Hospital is late in the day; the hospital teeters on destruction and the forces of opposition are unified and moving quickly. The fight to save Cook County Hospital — for the communities it serves — may still be won. If it is not, those same communities will learn a bitter lesson in determining who are their friends and who are their enemies. □



The Movement to Save Cook County Hospital is at its height — the ranks are swelled primarily by hospital workers fighting to keep their jobs.

The Essence Of Nathan Wright

"Whatever your predicament, make the best of it...I want to make a statement artistically." And he does just that - from a prison cell.



Nathan Wright is an inmate at Pontiac Prison. He has been incarcerated for 11 years, convicted of attempted armed robbery and conspiracy-murder. Nathan has argued his innocence since his arrest. With tremendous support and aid from his family, he is still fighting his case. (More information about his case on page 52).

Nathan took an interest in art when in grade school. After high school he continued his education at the Illinois Institute of Technology and his interest in art as a profession grew. He put together a portfolio and made the rounds looking for a job. But without experience he found the doors closed and he became discouraged. He gave up, at least for the time being, an art-

related job.

Not until he found himself in Cook County Jail in 1968 did he again devote himself to art. Starting with greeting cards for fellow inmates he was quickly noticed for his moving portrayals of Black people.

His work, which includes hundreds of pieces, has been shown and acclaimed across the country. He teaches art within prison and is presently organizing an "artists workshop" program there, explaining "art can contribute towards closing the gap between hopelessness and hopefulness."

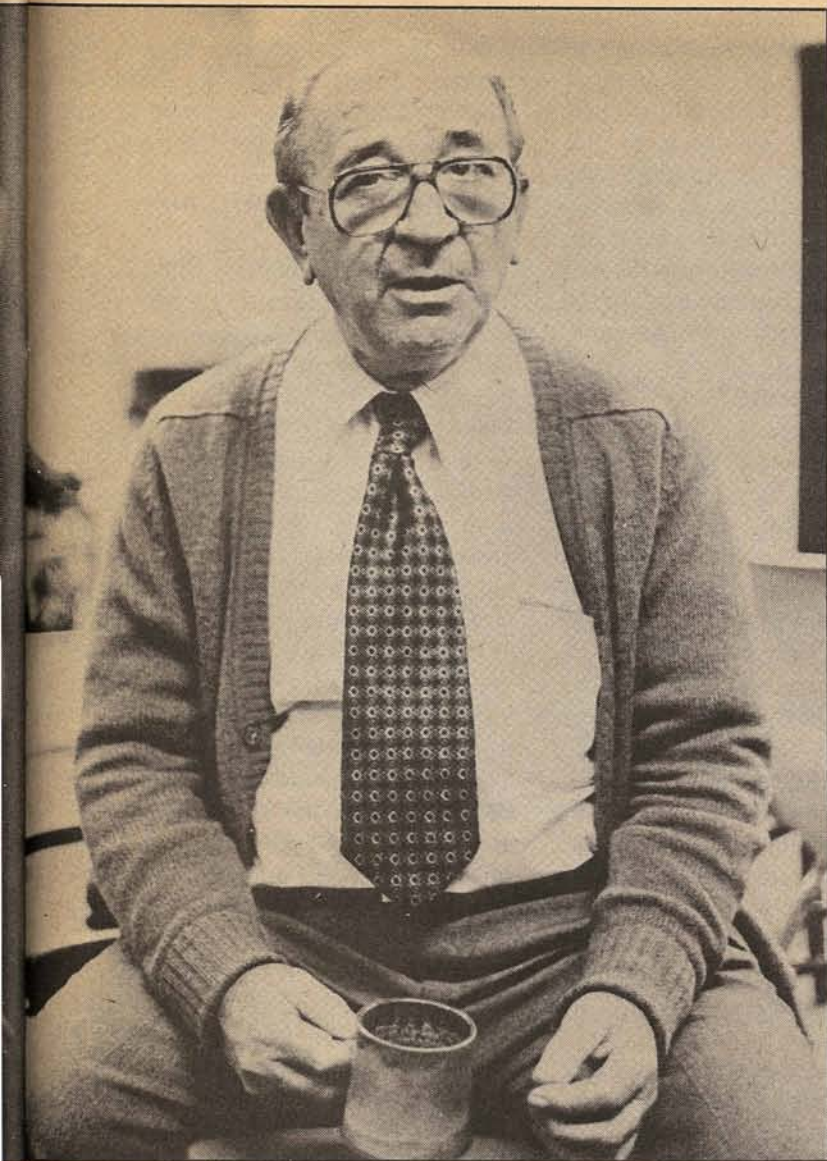
THE ARTIST AND HIS WORK

My family has been geared for struggling all their lives. And they say if you

got an opportunity to make some money, make it. Help us get some peace of mind. I don't think they could be any happier if they had peace of mind. Just keeping ends meeting. Keep ends together to pay the rent, to keep the car payments. I really give my father a lot of credit, that's a big job. Especially with his background, he didn't finish high school, he has very little education but he has managed to keep the boat afloat. I have to take my hat off to him. Especially during these times as tight as things are.

I don't want to become a commercial artist. I want to continue to make the kind of statements I think need to be said, artistically. The artist is always reflective of society and its political

Continued on page 51



Ralph Fasanella

Painting the American Ball Game

"I want to give some kind of emotional impact, kind of a charge, a gratification of looking at something beautiful...so a guy can say, 'Gee, this is what I think and see and feel.'"

It was while Ralph Fasanella was a union organizer with the UE that he "accidentally" started painting. A friend gave him some charcoal and paper and he discovered he could relieve the aching in his hands by expressing what he saw and felt, with the skill of his hands. Soon he decided to devote himself to his painting, quit his job as an organizer, painted days and pumped gas at night. Many in the Union thought he was "giving up the fight."

But Ralph Fasanella had learned by then too much to be a quitter. He was born in New York, on Labor Day, 1914, into an Italian immigrant family — the third of six children who would live in a three-room walk-up apartment. It was from his father, an

iceman — depicted as "crucified" in several paintings — that Ralph learned the frustrations of working people. From his mother, a buttonhole maker and center of the family, he learned of the struggle for the rights of working people.

In the 30's the fight against fascism in Spain moved Ralph Fasanella to join the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, North American volunteers in the Spanish Civil War. In 1950 he ran for New York City Council alongside mayoral candidate Vito Marcantonio on the American Labor Party ticket.

Now 35 years after starting to paint, Ralph Fasanella is recognized as an important artist. Nevertheless, his foremost concern is, "How are we going to get out of this mess this coun-

try is in?" He lives with his wife Eve and their two children in Ardsley, New York, a "goddamn suburbia town" but travels to the cities to present his artwork to working people.

Baseball, the American Ballet

The baseball game, that's my latest thing. And that's the way I see the world today. I see it complicated but I don't see it as gloomy as a lot of people see it. I see a lot of light and a lot of life and a lot of vitality. I see it a little different than I saw it in the 30's. I'm much older and I don't see it in the kind of one-dimensional greyness. I see it much more dynamic, much more real. I don't know why. I keep thinking

Fasanella

of Dizzy Gillespie and some of the modern jazz today. I don't see the blues or the greys in there anymore. It's a different type of struggle.

It's a whole different world with the young people. They don't see it the way we saw it in the 30's. Heaviness. We're not Beethoven all day long carrying this big dirge; it's a hard world, man. It's a different world. People wear different colors. We wore a God damn grey suit, one dirty old shirt, one old grey hat, that's the way we worked.

In our time we were talking about bread and butter, seniority and other problems. Now you have a whole different ball game—a whole society that's turning to rock and jazz, dope and marijuana, abstract art, homosexuals. I'm not here to make judgement on these things. My name is not God, it's Ralph. But I have a feeling that the wise guys of the establishment have pushed this thing on, making people buy the style that we're living. But the main thing is not pot, not jazz, not abstract art, not the question of homosexuals. All these things are out of life. The main thing is how the hell do people get some order and stability. That's from jobs, education and housing. And from there all things develop.

Beer and going to the races and baseball is part of culture but that's not the determining factor in life. When you work and have a family, get married, not get married, you have to look at how much pay you get, and you have to take a look at the end of the week, at the end of the year. "Where am I at, what am I doing, where am I going with myself."

You can't look for kicks, kicks are temporary, you can't live on kicks. That doesn't mean you shouldn't take them. I don't know anyone who doesn't want kicks out of life. Even at this age, I'm a constant lover of kicks. I look at kicks in depth.

I look at baseball; I don't care who wins. 2-1, 7-1, 8-1, 11-1. I look at baseball as a ballet, the poetry in baseball. I look at the way the guys run, they throw and they catch, and I look at the crowds making a lot of noise, having a lot of fun. I'm really not interested at this age with who won the ball game. And I'm not ready to get into the economics of it. I want to see the game.

"The White House"

I did this in the period of Nixon. In a way I felt that the Nixon affair was a sin committed on the American people. If you trace back America, and begin checking out the government and the CIA and the plotting, you find out that most of the people killed in the civil rights movement, including the Kennedy's and the Kings, it's true that the big, far-right industrialists, the big guys are behind the whole game.

Here I show the American scene in our lifetime, starting from after 1945, the beginning of the Cold War. And if you go into the White House, you see the schemers in the back...you're beginning to see what went on, all these people got slaughtered.

I always try to tell people it's just like the Germans of early American history when they were militant — part of it developed in Chicago, the Haymarket. Then came the McNamara Brothers, which also pushed the Irish down. Then came Meanings and Billings, Tom Mooney and they took a militancy. And they told the Irish, "Don't be militant." Then came Sacco and Vanzetti. They said, "Listen you Italians, don't be militant. Listen you, you better play the ballgame." So they knocked off Sacco and Vanzetti, Palmer Days. Then came the Scottsboro bunch. They said, "Listen you guys, you ain't going to make any noise." So they finished the seven guys. Well, in our period came the Rosenbergs. They said, "Listen you radicals, including Jews, leave this thing the way it is, or we'll knock you off too, we've done it to the other people."

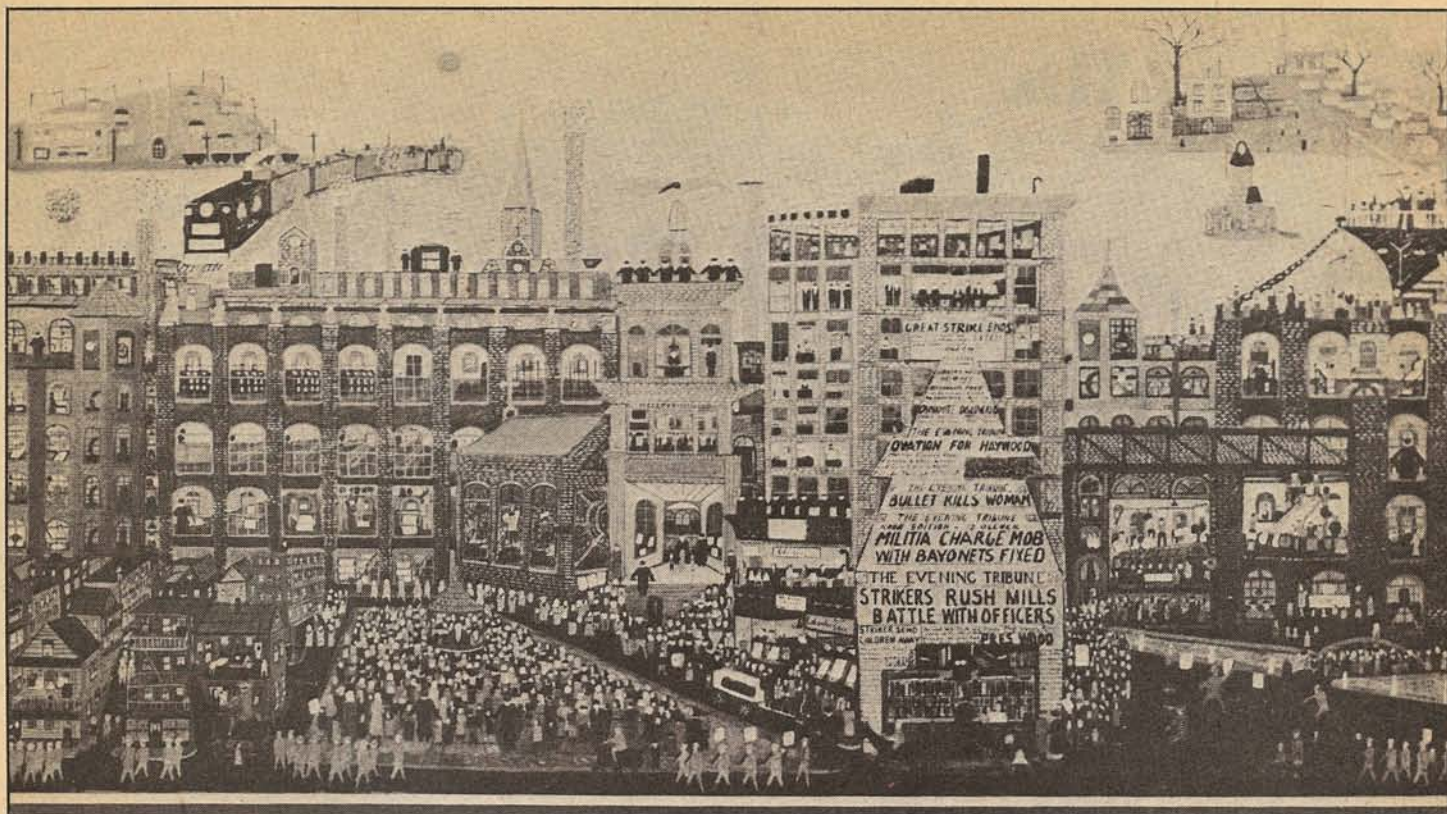
And always the young people protesting, young people protesting,

young people protesting. There's the Supreme Court, there's the Jefferson Memorial and here's the young people protesting again. ...That's where it's at.

On The Chicago Murals

I think that in Chicago, what they're into, the murals they do on the walls, with a little more experience, with a little more living, these kids could become the great muralists of America. They got this guy Mark Rogvin, he's wonderful. They've got the background — they come from the city, they understand society. So they understand the class struggle of it, they understand the rich and the poor business, which is an important thing. They need a little bit more experience in life; they got to go off and look at a lot of paintings in museums; they got to read; they got to go around and listen to jazz, they also have to listen to classical. Listen, the world is not made in 1979 in Chicago. The world is beyond Chicago, and the world is beyond listening to this particular





Above: "IWW Textile Strike" — Ralph Fasanella went to Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1975, dug up the old newspapers and photos, talked with the old timers, visited the mills and developed a series of paintings on the famous strike for shorter hours.

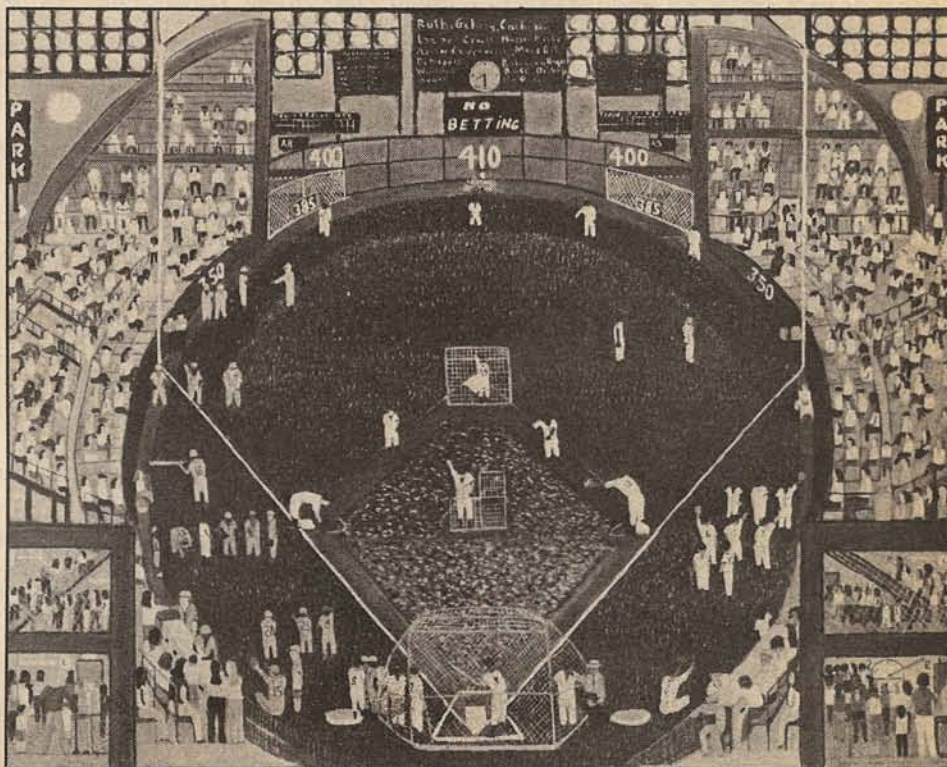
music of this given moment. The history of the world and the history of art and the history of people didn't start in Chicago. It's millions of years, thousands of years. But I think these kids have the potentials. They'll produce good art for Chicago, and maybe they'll make a good contribution to the art world, cause they've done a lot of good things.

The Question Of The Neighborhoods Is The Key To America

You had America coming out of World War II, and it spread itself out and guys in the service married girls from Australia, England, Arizona. The breaking up of America, the destruction of America is complicated, not simple. I think the guys moved away from the neighborhood rejecting it and we're all paying the price. And yet how the hell could you stay in Newark in the Fort District, in some of those unbelievable tenements?

So they left the minorities in the neighborhood and since they never gave them any jobs and put them on welfare, when they were angry they

Below: "Night Game Practice Time" — "I look at baseball as a ballet, the poetry in baseball. I look at the ways the guys run, they throw and they catch, and I look at the crowds making a lot of noise, having a lot of fun."



Fasanella

burnt it down. But to me, if they were out working, they would have a different battle. To me, it's a negative way of trying to resolve a problem. You don't burn, you build.

The working man doesn't burn anything down. Because if you work your ass off and you got something, how are you going to burn it? You don't burn a f----- thing; you fight to improve it.

The boys upstairs have put most of these people on welfare. You put a guy on welfare for five to six years and he has no more balls, no more dignity. So he's standing on the corner all day long. And standing on the corner resolves nothing. Only standing and fighting on the corner resolves something. They're purposefully willing to pay millions of bucks for people standing on the corner so they don't become fighting people.

But we went to the country, we went to suburbia. We went to suburbia, my God, and we're caught in a trap. Our rent is 500 bucks a month, we got a couple of cars and a TV and we're all scrounging for a living. We can't live, we don't smell, we don't taste.

My sister said, "I'd like to go back to the ghetto." She doesn't live in a fancy neighborhood; it's in the Bronx. "I really want to get down and feel like something. I'm living up here, I've got four rooms, I'm paying about 200 bucks...but I was better off in the ghetto." I'm not talking about the poverty. Who the hell wants to go back to the ghetto. We're talking about the human quality when you're living in the closeness. There's something about — I don't want to use the word "poor," that's s--- — but being together with a lot of people, the humanity of people. Being by yourself and having a TV, having your own pool table, having your own car, this is the alienation I see. The alienation I see is that we don't live in a social community way of living, where you went into a

"San Gerraro Fiesta"



building, you went to your neighbor next door, you smelled their food — it could have been Jewish, Italian, whatever it is. You don't get that anymore. There's no stoop sitting and people walking the block and skipping rope. You find that in the minorities, the Puerto Ricans and the Blacks, but I say that's not the majority of America.

To me, there's too much emphasis from the so-called Left — they talk about alienation, they talk about poverty and they're always talking about the Blacks and the Puerto Ricans. The more we talk like this the more we alienate ourselves and the bulk of the people, because the bulk of the White people are in a lot of trouble.

Sure the Blacks don't have a piece of bread or a quarter of a piece, while we have three quarters of a loaf. But the trouble in our homes is just, maybe more complicated than theirs. Because we're alienated, we don't have the social milieu that we were — the Polish people, the Jewish people, the Italian people. We're caught in this god damn suburbia town. My kids are going to college, and their neurotics, going to psychiatrists, smoking pot, smoking dope. We're talking about real alienation. There's no god damn family — one kid goes to Pennsylvania University, one to Chicago, one in Europe calls you up, "I'm in jail, send me some

money, send me a psychiatrist," That's the ball game....The White man has a lot of problems.

The Message Must Stay In Your Belly

Two things I want to accomplish. One I want to give a guy some kind of emotional impact, kind of charge, a gratification of looking at something beautiful. Does this move this guy to see the world in a certain way, can he do something? I don't mean "weapon" like it's used in the Left — "art is a weapon" — with a hammer and sickle. That's a lot of s----. I mean in the sense the guy can say, "Gee, this is what I see and think and feel," and make him a little more conscious. I don't think you can use, in a flat way, art as a weapon — yes it is — but most of the time I find that a weapon is one-dimensional propaganda and doesn't sustain itself. It's good for about eight and a half seconds.

If you're making a painting and you're telling a story and you don't have any feelings, don't do it. Don't paint only ideas. You're better to paint emotions and feelings, otherwise it falls flat, it will turn out as propaganda. It will never last. The message can't stay in the mind, the message must stay in your belly. And once it stays in your belly it sustains itself. □

Wright

Continued from page 46

and social arena. I still want to do that. I think there's a lot to be said artistically.

Whatever your predicament, do the best you can; that's my mom's philosophy. No matter how bad it may look there's always room down below you to go a little further. So you can pick yourself up. Keep your head, don't lose your head and do the best you can and work towards doing good and doing constructive things with your life. That's how I look at the situation I'm in. I just got to live with it and do the best I can and hope things work out for me. It's easy to go crazy in here, remember that. It's easy to lose your mind, once you lose that you ain't got nothing.

And I've seen them go crazy and it's a very frightening thing to witness. You don't see them come back. Guys you know well, you see them go and they don't come back no more.

Thanks to my family and thanks to that I'm mostly on the street. Mentally I'm mostly on the street. I'm always involved with things on the outside. Really, I don't see no problem with my transition.

I'm not mad. I've fought trying to be mad. That's a hard thing to do. When you know you don't belong in here,

everybody that sees you — sees you as a criminal. You know you ain't mad but you can't convince any of these guys.

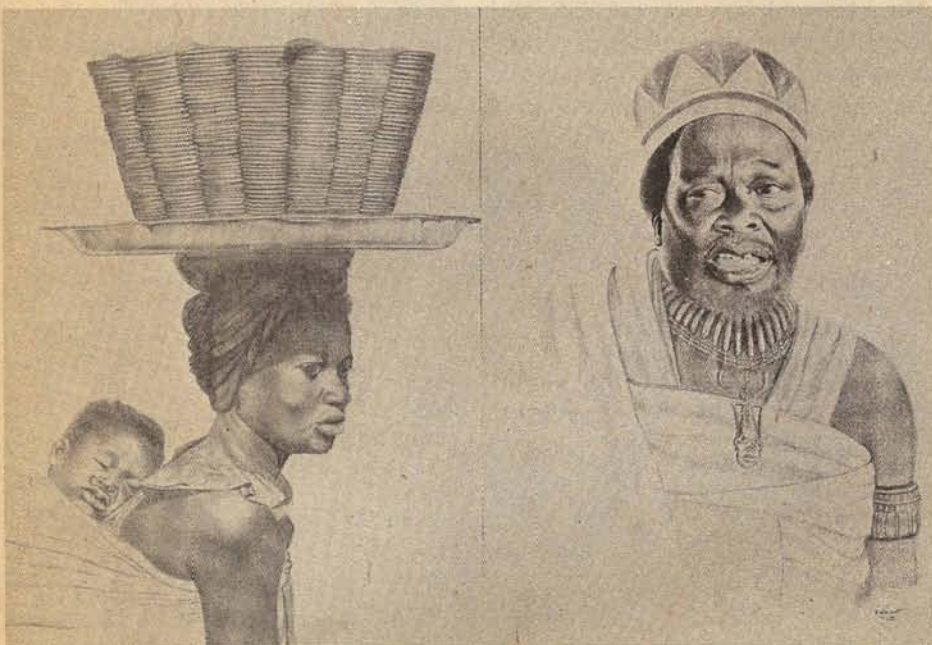
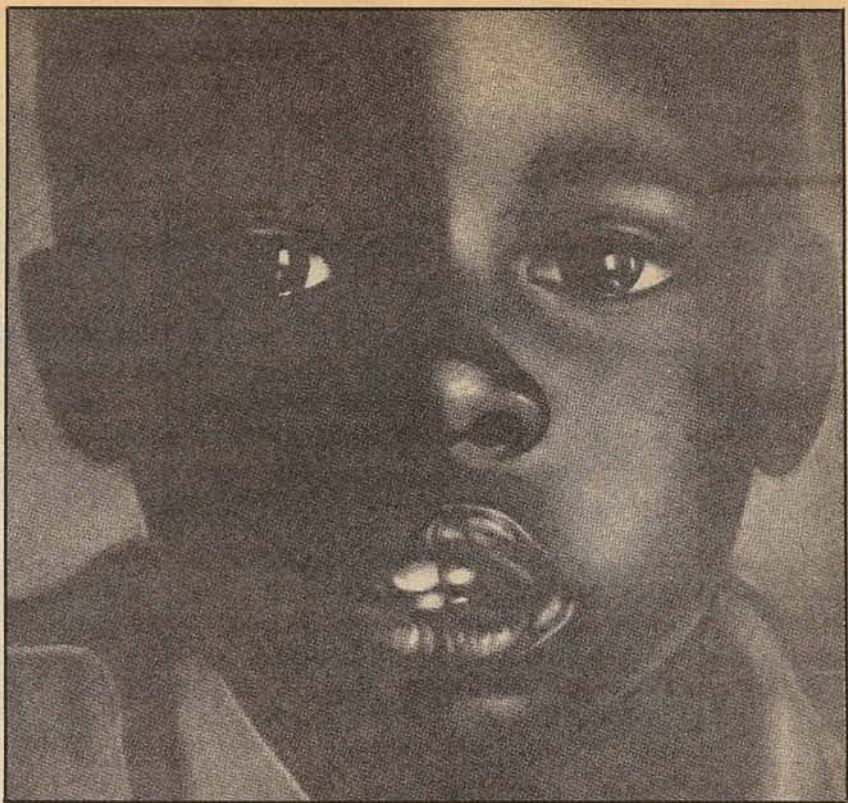
If you ever get the chance to get down to this side of the institution, you can see the effect this little papier-mache has had on these guys. They are really taken to this. It's interesting to see the impact it has had, it's all over the farm. It's in the rooms. The guys got jewelry boxes made and little statues and everything. Artistically you can see that something has happened

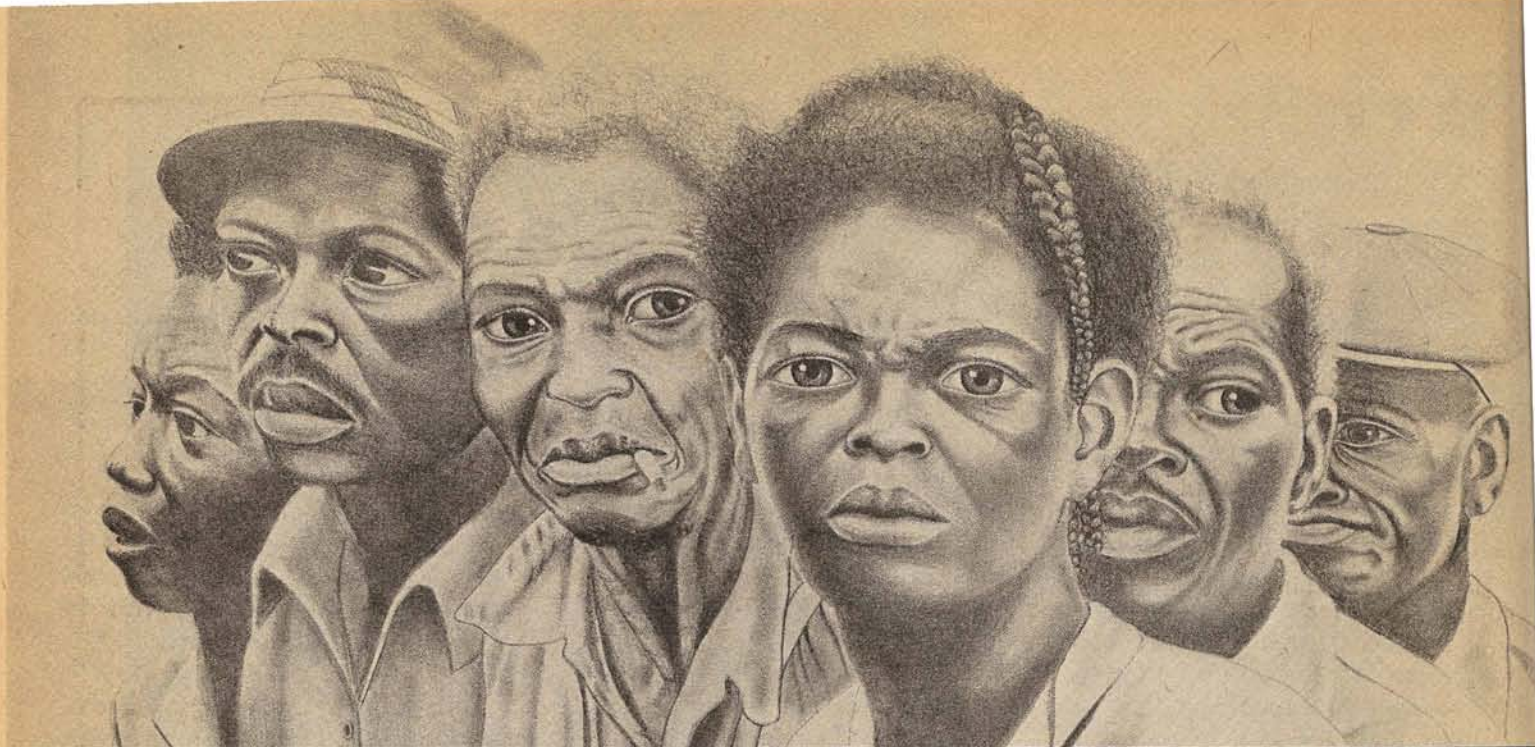
constructively and I've been able to give some of these guys a little something to put in their lives. That TV is extremely dangerous for the community out there, so you can imagine how it is for these guys. They get totally out there. It doesn't prepare them for anything. They're not prepared to deal with the real world out there.

COMING BACK TO PRISON

You know who they let out first? The guys who are so-called "rehabilitated?" The guys who have demonstrated that they can live productive lives don't get paroled. They don't parole these guys first. They guys who are important to the system, they keep them the longest. In other words, it's just the opposite of what the community may think. It's always, "John got time off for good behavior." You've heard that. That don't exist. That's a myth.

I'll give you an analogy of a guy who is coming back to prison. He'll tell you first thing, he's going to get laid or die. And then he's going to get money. Meaning through whatever means necessary. So he takes his album with all his pictures and stuff and he gives it to his buddies. The guys he knows well,





that he knows are not going anywhere. He takes all his prison clothes and gives them to all his good friends. His cosmetics, he may have a little hot radio. He gives that to one of his good friends and he tells them "I'm gonna send you some pictures back when I get out." What he does, he gets lucky and gets him \$200 or \$300 and he gets him an outfit. I've seen this a hundred times, so this is a fair play of what I'm talking about. He goes down to the local tavern and he gets him a couple of ladies and he says "Come on baby, take a picture with me, come on get in this picture." So he takes a picture with a few little women who have, whose lives are just about at the very end, about the only things they can do with their time is shine bar stools and sell themselves for nothing. And he takes a few pictures with them, he takes \$20 and gets a \$20 money order and sends it to his buddy, with the pictures. And he gets in front of somebody's cadillac sitting on the curb and he's leaning on it, you see what I'm saying? Then he tells the guy in his letters he's doing all right — pimping a grand. He's doing it to the top, he's got big money.

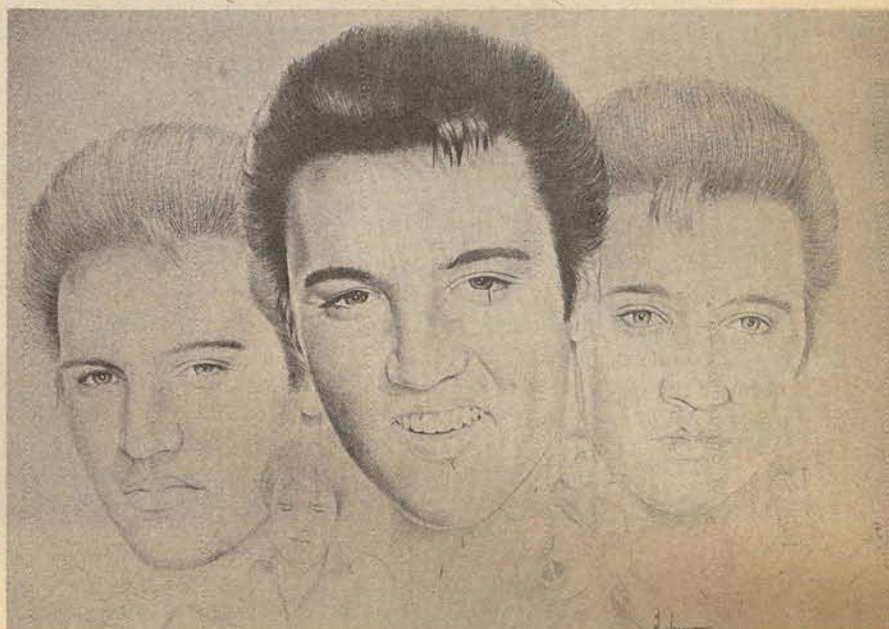
He's going to send you some more next week. I'm going to send you a check every month. You can take care of your commissary habits or whatever. Or to take care of your little

sister, you know left with a guy. So he can take care of his sister. He takes all those pictures, he writes those letters. He lasts six months. He's lucky. He done had a good run. He lasted six months out there. He caught four or five cases too, during this six month period. He's got a bunch of cases. He gets them all consolidated, he goes up and he cops out and gets them all consolidated into one case and then he comes on back down to the penitentiary.

He's back in six or seven months. You don't even believe really he's been gone. You think he's over in the South house somewhere. And he comes back and he goes to all the guys that he sent pictures to and he gets his album back

and he gets all his pictures and he tells all kinds of lies for the next six, seven, eight years. About how well he was doing. And how good he had it, and how he, and this whole bit. And he only got a nickle, only got 12. "Jack, I got eight, I didn't get but eight flat. I'll be out before you know it." And he spends his whole life, his whole life in five, six year bits.

He hasn't been on the street two years in 20 and this is what's happening. It's a cycle. It's an ongoing cycle. This is what they want. And they let these guys go at the parole board because they know they're going to come right back. And they can perpetuate the system. Now with a guy like me or with a guy that's really....



Another example is a guy here that's got sets, no violence in his case. It was aggravated kidnapping. There was no violence. He was going with this woman. He's a house mechanic. Do he get paroled right away? Of course not. They let murderers go first. And he's still here because he's a good mechanic. He keeps all their cars running in the institution. And can't nobody do the work he do. So they keep him. "Oh gee, you're doing a great job. Keep it up. Overhaul that jeep out there. Can't nobody else do it." And they save millions of dollars. There's another case of a guy that worked in the lab. He was a lab technician. Do he get paroled? No. You know why? Because they don't have a lab technician to do all those tests. So they keep him. It's incredible. It's really incredible to see how the system really functions — the mentality and the criminology. It's absolutely incredible.

THE LAWYER

He knows he's not going to defend you, he's not going to protect your rights. The police knows he's not going to protect your rights, they know his rep and they know that there's a very minimum required of him in order to send you to prison and that's the objective — to lock you up. The lawyers who's involved...there's a clique of lawyers in Chicago who basically exploit the Black community. I mean they take millions of dollars out of the Black community yearly. That's all they are is real slick tricksters, these \$500 suit wearers. They're very sharp. They'll show you how they can live high off the hog, off your money, champagne and the whole bit.

He was convincing, he even cried, he had tears in his eyes. "They're going to kill this f----- case." Those were his exact words. He put on such a good show. I would have probably cursed him out but it was so convincing. And then he told my mama he needs another thousand dollars or he can't go any further because the motion that he wants to file is going to take another thousand dollars to research, and another two thousand dollars to print the piece because he wants to use a real

The Case Of Nathan Wright

Nathan Wright was convicted in 1969 of participation in an armed robbery that resulted in the death of a policeman and was sentenced to prison in one of the more sensational cases of the time. In an atmosphere of incredible press headlines, Wright became the target of a combination of forces: several people with long criminal records were apprehended in the case; one man with a long record who was facing at least 10 years on another charge all of a sudden began to implicate Nathan Wright; the press convicted him in the headlines; the trial was conducted in a way that those who have reviewed the record say was designed to make Nathan Wright the victim of inadmissible speculative evidence that ought not to even have been allowed into court. By the time of the trial Nathan Wright who had been working and recently married was being characterized as the "mastermind" of the job. His family, who had been assured by attorneys that there was not a credible case against Wright suddenly saw the courtroom turn into a nightmare of innuendo.

In the ten years that Nathan Wright has been in jail his family and friends have continued to work on his case unearthing additional discrepancies in the story, raising substantive legal questions about why Wright was ever arrested in the first place. In fact, no one ever testified that he fired or was anywhere near any one else who fired a shot. He was

convicted on the testimony of a hardened criminal of "conspiracy" to commit the crime.

His record in prison has been incredible. A self-taught artist, his talents have won him acclaim. He has taught art. He has worked in a medical facility. He's never had any serious infraction of any rule. He even found keys a guard lost once and returned them. His file is filled with letters of compliment from prison officials for his work, his programs for other prisoners, his conduct.

For 10 years Nathan Wright has fought a winning battle not to become bitter, not to be consumed by hatred. If this were the only task at which he succeeded, it would be a lot.

Many prominent Chicagoans have joined with his family working to secure his release — a pardon, a parole.

And yet Nathan Wright is still in prison. His parole was denied this summer, not on the basis of his record in prison, but on the basis of undocumented testimony at his trial about his being the so-called "mastermind."

A new hearing has been requested. Work continues adding to the book length compilation of facts and analysis of the record to showcase his innocence and his outstanding accomplishments in prison.

A growing number of people are asking how after one grave mistake may have been committed against Wright, imprisoning him in the first place, can we allow yet another. □

Wright

good book. He wants to use the best paper and impress the Supreme Court judges who are all the same people, who come up through the same ranks, who cross folks out and send people to prison and...they get rewarded for it because the political forces recognize them and say, "See, this guy would make a great judge." You know attorney so-and-so's kid. He's a real dynamic kid. He's a good prosecutor. He has a good conviction record. Make a judge out of him or something. He gets \$35,000 plus for the rest of his life because he's on the Democratic slate and it's all how the game is played. It's not about you and I because we're just pawns in this whole little charade. And we go along...thinking that we received a fair trial. The same prosecutors who are lying and doing everything they can to get a conviction off your case.

They are not concerned whether you're guilty or not. The prosecutor's not concerned about that. That was the biggest shock to me to learn that they are not concerned and they don't care.

I thought this guy was supposed to protect me. You know, he came to the station when I was arrested. You know, I thought, maybe I'll survive this night. It was horrendous and here this guy comes telling me he's going to...back in the army if I don't confess. I couldn't believe it. I was so believing that the prosecutors were the legal arm of the state and that these people were sworn to protect your rights, sworn to see that justice is done. I really believed that and I really believed that the police were there to do their basic job. But they don't care.

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

I guess most people who have never come in contact with this very important part of our lives, don't really have an idea of exactly how it works.... You've got the kind of police law and order that Black people, Hispanics and poor people receive in general. And you realize that there is something very wrong with this system. There's something very, very wrong with this whole system and there's nothing being done to address this problem.



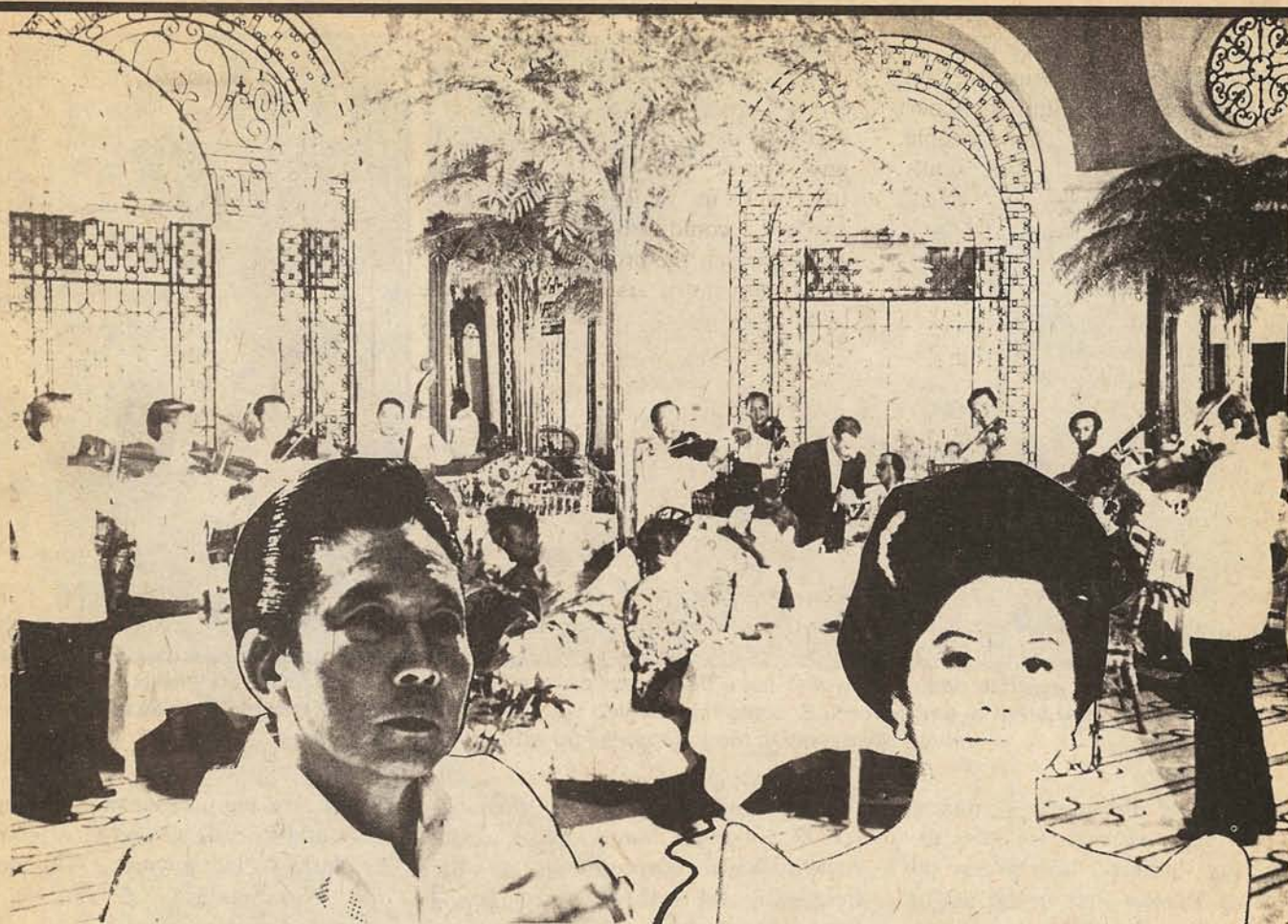
"There's a clique of lawyers in Chicago who exploit the Black community....They take millions of dollars out of the community yearly."

You may never have experienced it in your life. The attitude of the police about the Black community in general is very negative. The average policeman knows that he can go down in that community, that Black community, that Hispanic community and just about take anybody's life he wants to....The criminal justice system doesn't work for Black people in this country. It was never designed to work for Black people and poor people in this country....

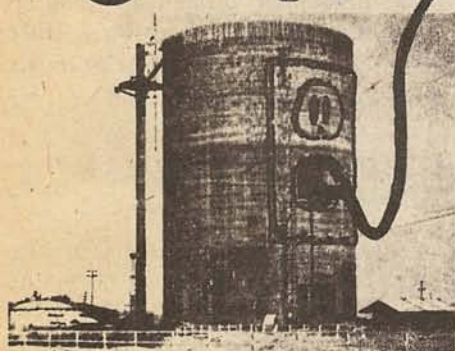
The police are not going to be anywhere around when somebody is busting your head and trying to take thirty dollars from you. When they get there, if you're in the wrong neighborhood, they're going to drag you on the stretcher and throw you in the back of a paddy wagon like you're a piece of meat to take down to the county hospital to leave you on a stretcher in the hall and maybe to die. But they don't care. You're just another guy who shouldn't have been at that place at that time....□



"My family has been geared for struggle all their lives." Left to right: Nathan's wife, Darlene; his mother, Mrs. Roberta Snipes; his daughter Lisa, 14; and son Nathan Jr., 12.



 Westinghouse



(Batan Province, Philippines) The 11,000 people of the village of Morong, Bataan Province, in the Philippines are having a \$1.1 billion nuclear power plant built (some say "dumped") in their backyard. They want people throughout the world — especially in the U.S. — to know the story of their battle to stop the destruc-

Westinghouse In The Philippines

The Nuclear Powered Dictatorship

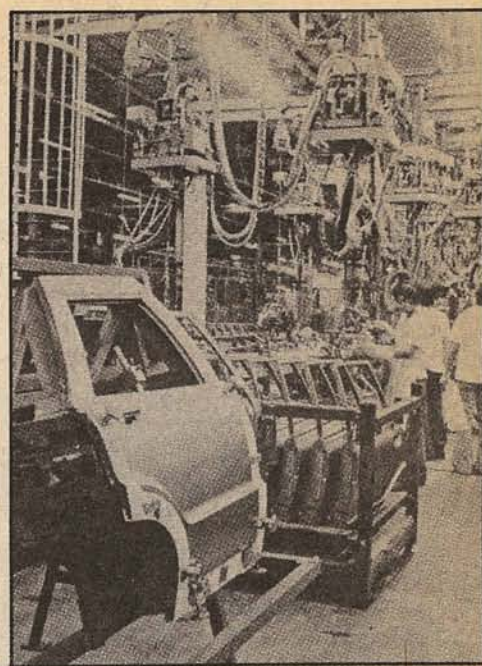
tion this Westinghouse corporation plant has already brought to them and the even greater destruction they fear it will bring when it begins operating in 1982 — *just a few miles from an active volcano.*

It is easy to see why the townspeople fear for their safety. The village and the nuclear reactor lie at the edge of Mt. Natib, an active volcano. Nearby are four more volcanos. Three earthquake faults are in the area — one runs through Bataan Province itself. In fact, the whole of the Philippines lies in the Pacific Firebelt — an area of intense volcanic and earthquake activity.

Most of the people of Morong,

which is a poor village in a poor country, are small farmers and fishermen. The government walked in and announced that they were taking the land of 184 people, homes and all, to use for constructing the plant. Homelessness (no place to go, no way to get new land) was only the beginning. Construction has already damaged the fishing areas on the coast so badly that many families are unable to earn their living. The damage is permanent and more is to come.

Not only is the site unsafe, it is dangerous for the villagers to oppose the building of the plant in their town. Little opposition to *anything* that the



Left: Filipino women point to dead fish which have been destroyed since construction of Westinghouse nuclear plant began. Right: The Ford plant is one of the U.S. companies which will benefit from the nuclear plant's electricity while the rest of the people in the Philippines go without electric power.

government of President Ferdinand Marcos does is allowed. He rules under martial (military) law. When the citizens of Bataan first began asking questions about the plant, the military quickly appeared in town. Yet people kept asking questions and then began to oppose the plant. One young man, detained and tortured by the military police, has now disappeared and is presumed dead — for speaking out against what the nuclear plant will do to his village. In spite of everything, the villagers' opposition has grown louder.

To top it all off the electric power that will be created by the plant will not even be used by the people who live in Morong nor will most of it go to *any other* ordinary people in the Philippines. In a country where only five percent of the homes have electricity, most of this electric power is supposed to go to businesses and people with money in the capital city of Manila and to the Bataan Export Processing Zone — a nearby international business tax haven, otherwise known as the Bataan "rip off zone."

So just how did this nuclear power plant project get started in the first place? The story goes back — like so

many around the world — to Washington D.C., to the board rooms of big multi-national corporations, to the Pentagon, and to the palace of Ferdinand Marcos who rules his country with an iron fist supplied to him by the U.S. government.

WESTINGHOUSE GOES NUTS OVER NUKES

In the 1950's Westinghouse corporation, 29th largest company in the U.S., thought that the big new way to make money would be building a lot of nuclear power plants to make electricity. They were right — for a very short while. In the 60's, along with their rival General Electric, Westinghouse invested billions in the nuclear industry, and together the two companies dominated the industry selling nuclear plants around the world.

But this heyday ended fast. By the 70's the price of producing electricity with nuclear plants went up, up, up while demand for electricity in the U.S. actually began to slow down. People began saying "NO" to nuclear plants as a source of power because of cost, safety and waste-disposal problems.

Result: the big utility companies in the U.S. and Europe weren't buying nuclear plants so fast anymore. This meant that Westinghouse, GE and the few other big nuclear plant makers in Europe and Canada weren't selling their nuclear plants so fast anymore either.

They had the ability to make more plants than they could sell. With all those billions of dollars at stake — where could they dump their extra plants? In the less developed countries of the Third World, of course.

PICKING THE NUCLEAR DUMPING GROUND

Which Third World countries are the *most* likely to be targeted as buyers of their multi-million dollar nuclear energy plants? Look at those who've already bought nuclear plants — Taiwan and South Korea, for example. The picture seems clear. To qualify, a country's government should allow the big multi-national corporations to come in, use up cheap labor and precious raw materials and take home fat profits for themselves. A country should have a strong arm government that doesn't let any opposition get out

of hand. And a country's government should depend on the U.S. for its lifeblood of arms and money. The Philippines qualified on all counts.

GREASING THE WHEELS OF THE DEAL

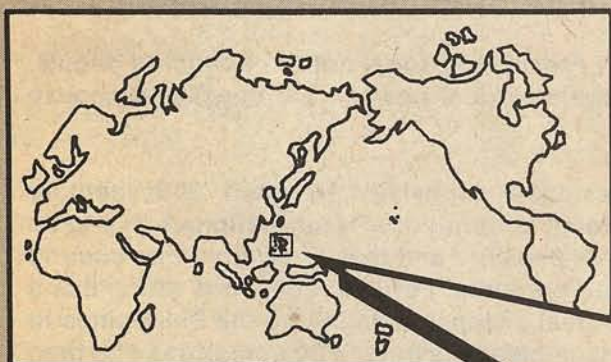
Westinghouse's rival, GE, could figure this out too. Both companies bid for the plant. So how did Westinghouse get the deal? According to front-page headlines in 1978 old-fashioned

methods still work. They had an edge. Westinghouse's agent in the Philippines was Herminio Disini, who also happens to be President Marcos' close friend and cousin-in-law. For his services in setting up the deal, Disini reportedly received between \$5 million and \$35 million from Westinghouse. In addition, Disini's own empire of Philippine companies also got the lion's share of local contracts from Westinghouse. Disini's companies are

doing insurance (worth \$100 million itself) *plus* construction, engineering and management for the nuclear plant.

Disini was a good investment for Westinghouse. Although Westinghouse at first said it would build the nuclear plant for \$500 million, once the deal was made they jacked up the price to \$1.1 billion and Marcos didn't bat an eye. The deal held firm.

Could the Philippines afford this \$1.1 billion nuclear deal? No way. By



The Philippines

PHILIPPINES: BACKGROUND

The Philippines is a country made up of over 7,000 islands which lie in the Pacific Ocean, only 500 miles from mainland Southeast Asia and 7,000 miles from San Francisco. It is rich in sugar, lumber, copper and many agricultural products.

In about 1570 Spain invaded and occupied the Philippines and ruled it as a colony for over 300 years.

In the 1890's the Filipino people waged a war of independence against Spain.

In 1898 the U.S., anxious to get the country's sugar crop and to use the Philippines as a stepping stone to intrude into China attacked the country. The Philippines became a U.S. occupied colony until the end of World War II.

Since World War II the U.S. has played a major role in the political and economic life of the Philippines. There has been much opposition to this U.S. dominance.

In 1965 Ferdinand Marcos became President.

In 1972 Marcos imposed martial law which continues to this day. Resistance to the Marcos regime has intensified during these seven years.



JUSTICE

the end of 1975, without this nuclear project, the Philippines already owed \$6.5 billion to foreign banks and governments. Most of the billions that the Marcos government borrowed have gone to projects — like this Westinghouse one — that benefit the small number of people in the Philippines who have some real money. To pay for the Westinghouse deal Marcos and his buddies needed to find a way to borrow the *whole \$1.1 billion*.

ENTER THE EXIMBANK

But Westinghouse wasn't worried. They turned — as they often have before — to an agency of the U.S. government, the Export Import Bank (Eximbank) to bail them out. The job of the Export Import Bank is to help U.S. companies sell their products overseas — whether those products are truly needed or not. When a U.S. company wants to sell something to a country that doesn't have the money to pay for it, the Eximbank can fix up the deal. Eximbank is a U.S. government credit agency with the power to lend \$20 billion U.S. taxpayers' dollars. It can also help put together additional loans from big U.S. banks.

Eximbank came through for Westinghouse with flying colors. Eximbank approved \$644 million of its own money in loans and guarantees for the Philippine project. It also helped Marcos borrow the rest of the money from big U.S. banks like Citicorp, American Express and Manufacturers Hanover by guaranteeing to repay a big part of the debt to the banks just in case Marcos can't.

So everybody got what they wanted. Westinghouse sells another useless and dangerous nuclear power plant and makes a big profit. Marcos' circle makes money and gets their hands on nuclear power which some say they may quietly use to make nuclear weapons. And the big banks get a huge, highly profitable, safe loan and more say-so in how the Philippine economy will run.

Everybody wins. Everybody, that is, except the people of the Philippines and the U.S.



THE BATAAN EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE

■ The Bataan Export Processing Zone, not the Philippine people, will receive much of the electrical power from the Westinghouse nuclear plant.

■ The Zone is "designed especially to meet 20th century endeavors of multinational corporations." Multinationals like to do everything as cheaply as possible and they jump from one country to another to make their products. For instance, Ford which has a plant in the Zone buys steel in Japan, brings it to the Philippines to stamp out car parts, assembles cars in yet other countries and then sells them in still other countries. The Processing Zone is designed for multinationals to do one or more steps of their production process as cheaply as possible.

■ Products produced in the Zone are for export only. They are NOT made to be used by the Filipino people.

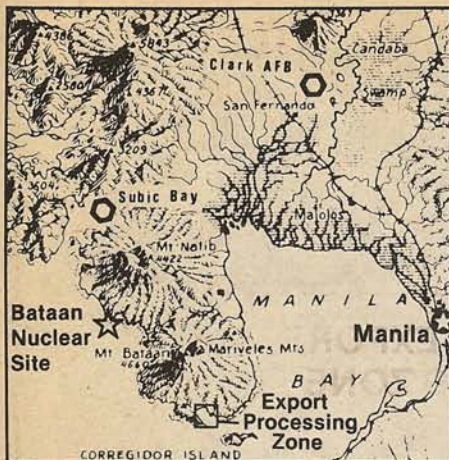
■ According to advertisements by the Philippine government, what makes the Zone cheap is:

- **TAX BENEFITS:** No taxes of any kind on bringing in or shipping out materials. No local taxes. Very little national taxes.
- **FINANCING BENEFITS:** Cheap loans guaranteed by the Philippine government.
- **ALL PROFITS GO BACK TO THE MULTINATIONALS.**
- **CHEAP LABOR:** Wages are controlled by the government. In the Zone they range from \$1.21 to \$2.15 PER DAY. No unions are allowed.

■ Multinational business executives explain why they came to the Zone:

- "It was a perfect choice for us, as we were attempting to lower our production costs."
- "If it were not for martial law, and what happened after, we would not be here now."
- "Our prime mission in life, as a manufacturer and supplier, is to get a product made at the lower cost. We thought that we could do it in the Philippines, and found out that we were right."

note: all quotes are from "International Business Magazine"/November, 1977



THE OTHER SIDE: THE PEOPLE

The Philippine military regime counted on not having any opposition to their nuclear plant. In fact, they announced that they would build 10 more after this one! They didn't count on the villagers of Morong who — displaced from their homes and farms and forced to live in the shadow of the reactor — have managed to make the facts of the Westinghouse nuclear deal and their opposition to it known around the world.

The Marcos government did not ask the people of Morong to approve the reactor site. They were just "simple folk" said the head of the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission. The town found out about the plant only when the government came in to uproot people. The villagers opposed it so strongly that the National Power Commission was forced to hold a "public information" meeting. As the villagers gathered, army troops encircled the meeting. Still people rose, asked questions and spoke out to say "no." Army men moved toward the speakers to try to quiet them and then denounced anyone who spoke out as "subversive."

Afterwards the villagers continued to meet quietly on their own and to discuss and learn more about the plant. They formed teams to build new simple wood homes for those families who had been removed from the construction site. More military appeared in town. One morning before dawn the

military police moved through the town. "Everyone out of their house." The women and children were lined up on the streets. The men were pushed to the town square by armed troops. The houses were searched for "subversive" literature. After all, how could these "simple folk" dare to stand up. The "guerrillas" must be stirring them up.

Still the townspeople's opposition continued. They formed an organization called Concerned Citizens of Bataan. Then one day Ernesto Nazareno, a 23-year old worker at the construction site and opponent of the plant, was seized by troops. He was held on suspicion of being a "subversive." During the weeks he was held he was given the "water treatment" — he was hosed down with water, electrical clamps were placed on his genitals and shocks were sent through his body. He survived and was released. He came back to his village still opposing the power plant, and he told the townspeople what had been done to him. Shortly after, he was picked up again. He has not

been heard from since. The citizens of Morong believe he has been murdered.

The voice of Romeo Villanueva was quiet and serious as he described all this to KEEP STRONG one day recently in Chicago. "Romey" is a young seminary student from Morong who has been carrying his village's story to people outside his country. "I took a one year leave from the seminary to go back to my town of Morong. I got a job at the construction site and saw myself that parts for the nuclear plant were arriving from Westinghouse without being inspected properly for safety." He saw more and more of what was going on in the plant. "The



Housing for Westinghouse employees overlooks shanty housing of Filipino workers (above). Only five percent of the homes in the Philippines have electricity. (Below) Ferdinand Marcos signs deal for nuclear plant with Westinghouse official in 1976.

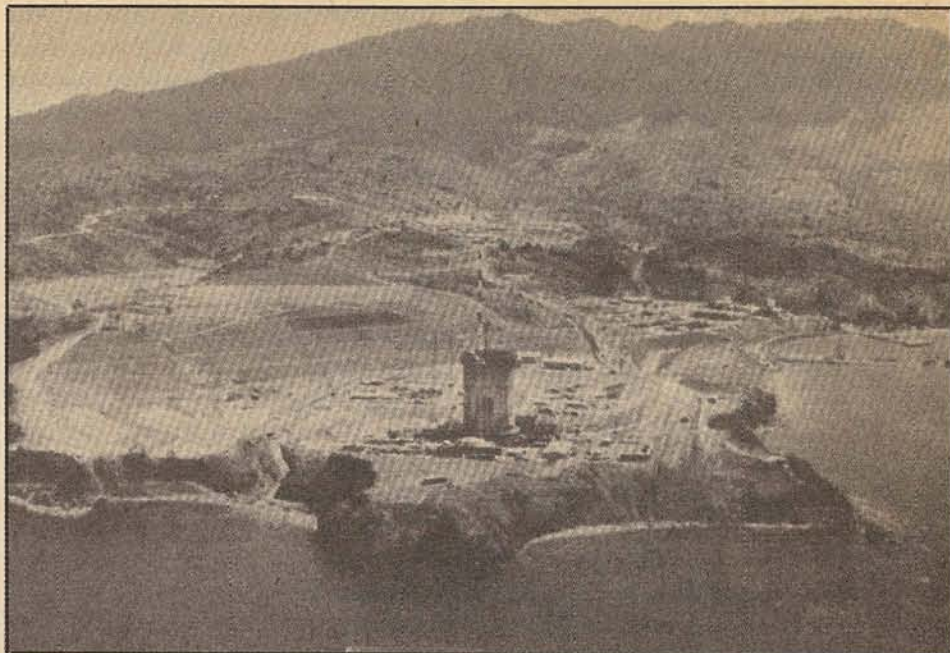
workers at the site are paid very little. They cannot protest. Under martial law no unions are allowed. In fact, by law anyone who protests — or *might* protest — conditions at work can be suspended from the job.” The Marcos government calls it “preventive suspension” — it prevents any trouble for them or for big companies.

“They even cheat the workers at the site in the dining room. One day at lunch,” Villanuevo said, “the man next to me was served rotten food. I gave him my plate, and took his to the company’s health officer. He agreed it was dangerous, but he too was afraid to say anything.”

The construction companies at the nuclear reactor site are squeezing every last penny of profit they can out of their workers. Remember who got these construction site contracts from Westinghouse? Marcos’ cousin-in-law and Westinghouse’s dealmaker — Disini. The corruption and profit-squeezing seem endless.

Workers at the plant construction site and people in the town continued to organize against the plant. People in the U.S. and in other countries learned about the situation and began researching and then protesting the Westinghouse deal. This public pressure in the U.S. forced the State Department to “re-review” the Westinghouse project. On the other side, pressure from Westinghouse, the whole nuclear industry, Eximbank, and private banks was joined by pressure from the Pentagon which doesn’t want to offend Marcos. Why? Because there are two major U.S. military bases in the Philippines. Used for the Vietnam war, the Pentagon wants to keep these bases for muscle flexing in Asia. No matter that these bases, too, are near this nuclear power plant and so are 14,000 U.S. servicemen stationed there. In case of a “Three-mile island” in the Philippines the Pentagon doesn’t care about the Filipino people or U.S. servicemen either.

In October of this year, the State Department announced it had re-



The Philippine's first nuclear plant on the main island of Luzon (above). Ernesto Nazareno (below) was a young Filipino anti-nuclear activist jailed and apparently executed by the Marcos regime.



approved the Westinghouse deal as being in the “national interest.” Now it is up to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to OK the safety of the plant. A Commission spokesman told KEEP STRONG that “there has been so much public intervention in this case” that the NRC has decided it might set a precedent for other nuclear export cases. So the Commission will first try to decide that it does not have to be too responsible for the safety of plants exported from the U.S. Supposedly the U.S. government should not approve the sale to other countries of products that are not safe enough to be sold here. If the NRC can wiggle out of responsibility for the safety of nuclear plants the Commission will be spared a lot of hearings and work when there’s so much public “intervention.” Hearings on the NRC’s responsibility

will be held during the next two months.

The Concerned Citizens of Bataan asked Romey Villanuevo to travel to Australia and Canada which will supply uranium to the nuclear reactor. They asked him to come to the United States which is financing the project, propping up Marcos and whose Nuclear Regulatory Agency must still give final approval to the plant. They asked him to ask us to help them stop this plant, to help them stop this dictatorial regime, to help them stop the rape of their town and country by multinational companies who use the U.S. government and the Filipino people to make money at any cost.

And that is what Romey Villanuevo, with his serious face and soft voice — small suitcase in hand is doing.

What will you do? □

Red Wing Residents Charge Cover-up In Prairie Island Nuclear Spill

(Red Wing, Minnesota) On October 2, the eruption of a major gas line at the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant sent radioactive gas across the island. Only seven hours later did the gas leak fully stop. A state of emergency was declared, all plant workers were evacuated and the power unit shut down. Northern States Power Company officials described the gas break as "of fairly large magnitude," but assured the public and the press that "no one in the plant or area was exposed to any dangerous radiation."

Residents of Red Wing, Prairie Island and nearby Wisconsin towns tell a different story. According to Pat Wolff Freeman, a resident of Hager City, Wisconsin and member of People For Safe Energy, "We don't trust what the plant officials were saying." The leak occurred at 2 p.m. but it took officials from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) 2 hours to get there. The NRC monitoring team arrived, did their monitoring and assured

Then the NRC comes and tells us that the radiation level is safe."

Among the 300 people who live on Prairie Island, are 150 members of the Dakota Sioux Indian tribe. Tribal council chairman Norman Campbell stated that his people were never notified by power company officials of the gas leak at the time of the accident. They received no information until 4 p.m. when news arrived from the nearby Indian Health Service. Campbell expressed the anger of the people living on Prairie Island near the nuclear plant: "We should have had the courtesy of being notified as soon as NSP declared a plant emergency at 2 p.m. When people called us we couldn't tell them anything but we could see something strange was going on out there because all the cars were leaving the plant. If anything serious had developed it would have meant everybody on their own. We were overlooked, taken for granted."

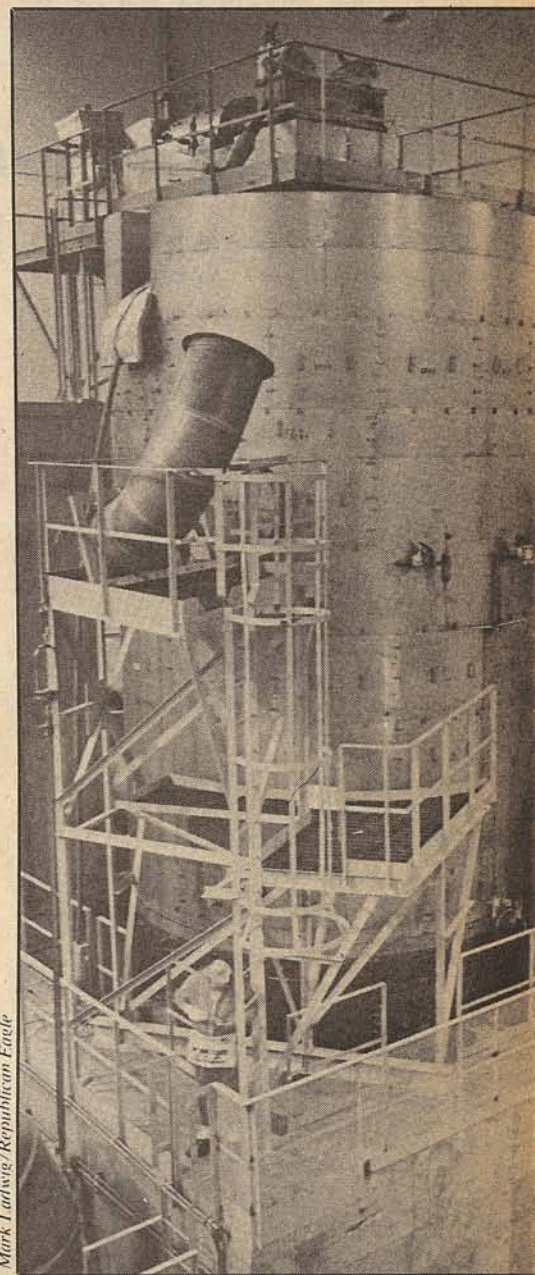
Spokesmen for NSP said that the power company had "no authority out-

Dakota Sioux Indians living on Prairie Island were never notified by officials of the radioactive gas leak.

the people everything was O.K. The thing I questioned," Ms. Freeman stated, "is that the accident happened with a 27-minute blast of radioactive gas into the air and of course, it's not going to hang over the plant and wait for the NRC. By the time NRC arrived, the radioactive gas was blown with the wind to Minneapolis and other places.

side the plant boundaries." Local officials were forced to admit that "communication with the Indian community was not carried out, but it will be carried out in the future."

Since the accident at the Prairie Island plant and continuing investigation of the accident by local residents, Minnesota governor Al Quie has ordered



Inside the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant. A gas line erupted last month, but a suppressed government file, released last January revealed major defects in the reactor's cooling system dating back to 1975.

major changes in the state's emergency plan to deal with future nuclear accidents. First, the state health department must be able to receive immediate information about the radiation levels from NSP. This requires installation of a radio telephone system between the Prairie Island plant and the Minneapolis headquarters. Second, the state health department will be re-

quired to maintain a state patrolled helicopter equipped with monitoring and testing equipment which can arrive over the plant in minutes of the accident. Finally, there must be a prompt relay of information to the public even if there is no apparent danger. "Residents of the plant deserve information as soon as possible," the governor said.

The People's Alliance for Safe Ener-

gy, formed shortly after the accident on Prairie Island, is conducting their own research about the incident and future NSP activities. The group plans to educate the public about their findings and reports that the Northern State Power Company has recently applied for permission to expand their waste storage area at the Prairie Island nuclear plant site. □

Shoshonee-Bannock Indians — Fighting To Protect Land Rights

(Fort Hall Reservation, Idaho) A dispute over territorial land rights drew national attention to this half-million acre Shoshonee-Bannock Indian Reservation near Pocatello in the last week of September.

The Shoshonee Bannock Nation's rights to the land are outlined in the Fort Bridger Treaty the Nation signed with the United States in 1868. The right of the people to exercise their land rights as they see fit is further explained in the Nation's constitution adopted in 1937.

In 1977 the tribe approved a land use policy ordinance which established a set of clear guidelines for use of the In-

dian land and an elected land use commission to oversee land use on the 500,000 acres. On March 9, 1977 the Secretary of the Interior reviewed and approved the ordinance. It became the law of the land.

Some Whites in the area were quick to react. In the latest incident, one in a

can be amended."

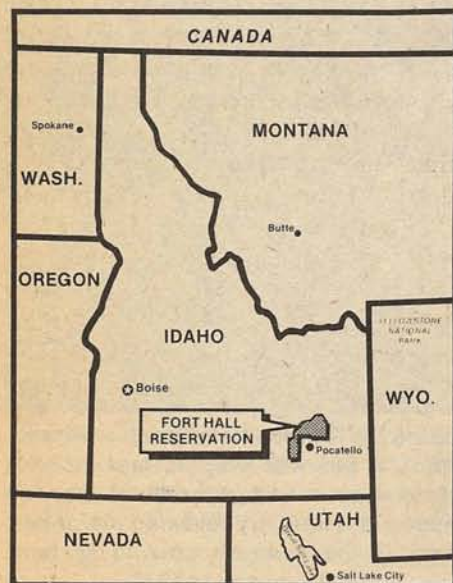
Interviewed by phone from his home Dan Mabey, director of the land use commission for the tribe, offered some background on the contradiction which began in the early nineteenth century. "We have chosen to exercise our inherent right to manage the land as defined

"We are a domestic sovereign Nation...and have chosen to exercise our inherent right to manage the land."

continuing series, State Rep. Ray Infanger had declared his intention to develop a trailer park on the reservation. Faced with opposition from the tribal land use commission, Infanger insisted that he would go ahead with the development disregarding the laws governing the reservation.

Deputy prosecutor Ben Cavaness, who would be responsible to prosecute Infanger if he attempted to develop the land, explained that he had no intention of prosecuting Infanger. Cavaness pointed out, "When the Indians talk about rights, they should remember it's like a master-servant relationship. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. This is the White man's case: There are more of us than there are of them. If the treaty gives them rights, treaties

in the treaty of 1868. That they agreed to. We only have about half a million acres left and the tribe thought it was good planning, good law and good business to enact a land use policy ordinance. It's provided for in the tribe's constitution and it was submitted to and approved by the secretary of the interior on March 9, 1977. There's opposition to it. There are people who are organized and well connected. There's groups like the Interstate Congress for Equal Rights (ICER) that can spend money trying to beat down our efforts. And so far the county and state have been reluctant to cooperate with our attempts to implement the law. The particular prosecutor (Cavaness) is really very typical. Since the statement I think he fairly well crawled under the table somewhere. Because we haven't



heard from him.

Asked about the reasons for organized opposition to the tribe's efforts to act responsibly, Mabey likens prejudice against Native Americans to the racist discrimination against Blacks and Latinos in this country. "What can I say, when we have our children paddled in schools for trying to learn their own language. There's no doubt that they've tried to destroy our heritage and our culture. But we're not out here trying to jerk anybody's heart strings. And I want to point out that we're only talking about a percentage of the people. There's a Supreme Court decision in this area. There are federal laws. They call it Indian law, actually it's non-Indian law, but it's law. We're prepared to go into federal court if we have to."

Mr. Mabey took time to explain the fairness with which the land use commission decided against Infanger's trailer park development. "Our land use commission is really unique. It was elected by the tribe. You know that most municipalities don't elect land use commissions. The members have really bent over backwards to ensure justice in all these questions, of how the land is going to be used.

"The county maintains that they have authority over all the land on the reservation owned by non-Indians. Things like this are constantly occurring. Twice before land has been taken from us. But we established the land use commission to stop that. Listen, we are a domestic, sovereign nation and they don't want to acknowledge that. The state has shown neither political, governmental or territorial respect for the tribe. Montana doesn't tell Idaho what to do. And Idaho doesn't tell the next state. I really don't see any difference with our situation."

Although the particular issue around State Rep. Infanger's trailer park has not yet been settled, Infanger insists he is going ahead with the development and the county won't act. Mr. Mabey was quick to answer the final questions about the future. "We'll be here." □

Protest Against Death Penalty Mounts

A Report From The Illinois Coalition Against The Death Penalty

by Mary Alice Rankin

(Chicago, Ill.) In the last eight years 38 states have passed capital punishment laws and executions have resumed. Almost 300 persons wait on death row in the United States today. States may legally kill by electrocution, hanging, shooting, lethal injections and gas.

The Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty reports on the following death row cases across the country:

Nevada — Jesse Bishop — 36 years old, died in the gas chamber October 22, the second person to be executed in the United States this year. Gov. Bob List refused clemency for the convicted man sentenced to die for murder.

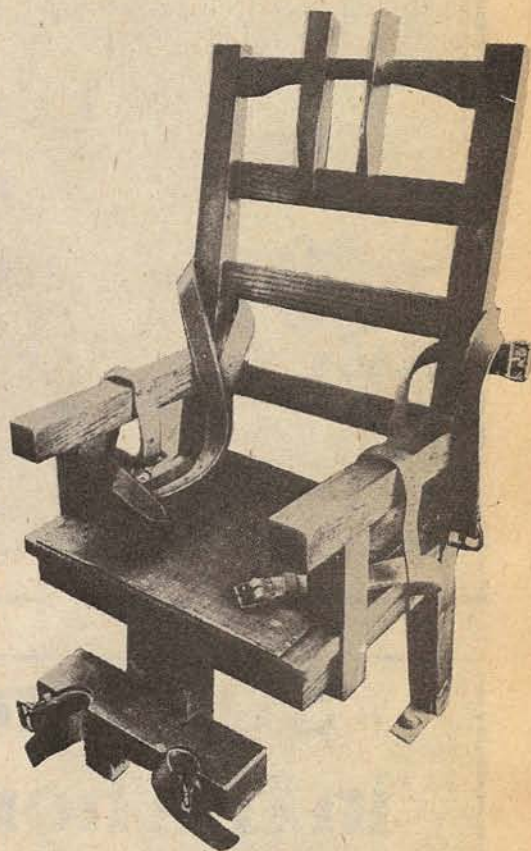
Massachusetts — The governor just signed a new death penalty law. No one has been executed in the state since 1947.

Illinois — James Free was sentenced to death in DuPage County. He is the 12th person in the state to be given the death penalty.

Also in Illinois, Judge William Cousins, Jr. recently filed an appeal with the Illinois Supreme Court that the Illinois death penalty is unconstitutional because it gives prosecutor's unfair discretion. Cousins recently refused to hand down another death sentence because there were no Blacks in the jury pool.

Florida — A number of organizations are calling for a nation-wide tourist boycott of Florida because it has more inmates on death row than any other state — 133. Spokespersons for the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty have urged people to write letters of protest to Florida Governor Bob Graham.

The Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty also recently reported



on a study conducted by William Bowers and Glenn Pierce of Northeastern University in Boston on the death rows in Florida, Georgia and Texas. Their study shows that the race of the victim determines whether or not a person receives a death sentence. A person convicted of killing a White person is six times more likely to be sentenced to death than the killer of a Black person. The authors also found that a Black who kills a White is 50 times more likely to receive the death sentence than a White person who kills a Black. Illinois presently has 12 persons on death row. Of the six Whites, five Blacks and one Latino, only one of the victims was Black. □

Mary Alice Rankin is Coordinator of the Illinois Coalition Against The Death Penalty.



Murder Charges Against Huey Newton Dismissed

Black Panther Party President Huey P. Newton (third from right), celebrates with his family last month after charges accusing him of killing a 17-year old prostitute were dismissed. Charges were dropped when two juries failed to reach a verdict. The first jury voted 10-2 for acquittal; the second, 11-1 for acquittal. "Now I can live my life until they charge me with something else," Newton said.

Pictured with Mr. Newton, left to right, are: his sister, Myrtle; his mother, Mrs. Armelia Newton; defense attorney Luke Ellis; his wife, Gwen; and his brother, Walter.

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WORKERS WITHOUT PAPERS

The Facts About Undocumented Workers

Several Million non-citizens work in the U.S. without papers. Many come from Mexico. The "undocumented" Workers are accused of taking away jobs and "draining" the welfare rolls. But some hard facts about U.S. history and the economy explain what really causes our "unemployment problem."

by Jose Bracamonte

*"Some of us are illegal, and
others not wanted
Our work contract's out and
we have to move on
Six hundred miles to that
Mexican border
They chase us like rustlers,
like outlaws, like thieves."*

Woody Guthrie

Recent years have seen an intense clamoring for measures to curtail the so-called "silent invasion of illegal aliens." Officials from the highest levels of government and business point to the undocumented migrant as the root of many social ills. Undocumented persons are accused of causing unemployment, depressing wages and working conditions and draining

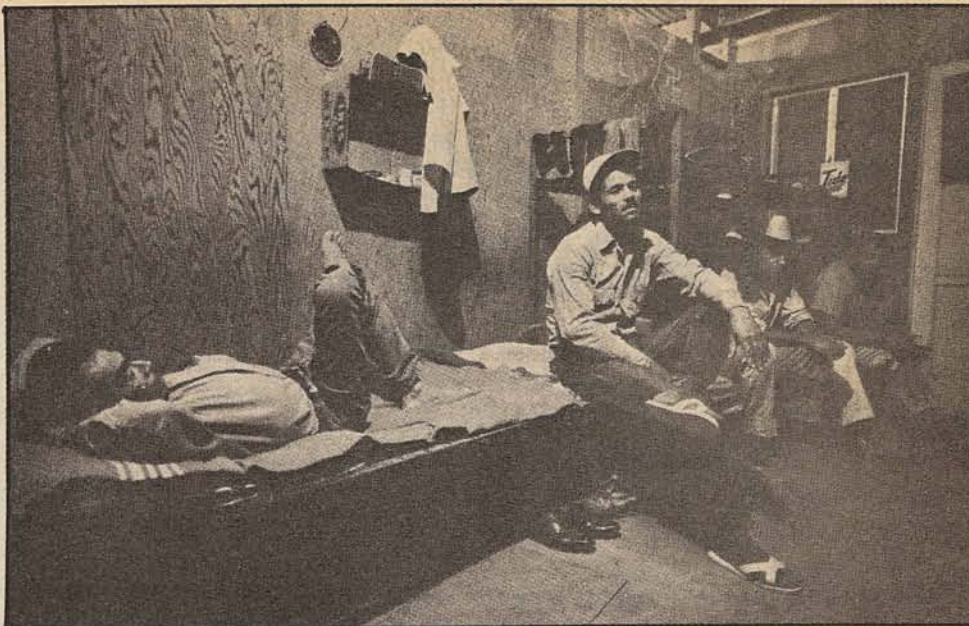
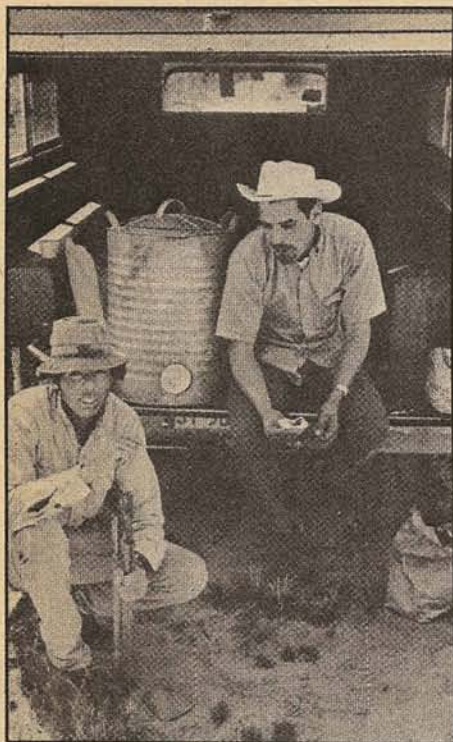
public assistance coffers. Basically, it is argued that if we could only dam the flood of "illegals" major social and economic problems could be solved.

The hysteria generated by this issue has hindered efforts to place this issue in a framework. Myths and racist misconceptions are readily accepted as reflecting the reality of the undocumented person's existence and relation to U.S. society. The purpose of this article is to place the present dilemma of illegal immigration in historical focus and thus contribute to a sober understanding of this issue.

For almost a century following the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the policy of the United States was one of open and unrestricted im-



Mexicans pass through Customs. The Mexican immigrant is a worker and his journey to the United States is exactly for that purpose.



Under the Bracero (laborer) program set up in 1942 to meet labor shortages caused by World War II, Mexicans were brought to the U.S. on a temporary legal basis. U.S. policy has never encouraged permanent settlement of the Mexicans and living conditions for migrant Mexican workers (above) remain shoddy.

migration. Increased immigration was seen as the solution to chronic labor shortages and the need to stabilize the northern and southern border. The policy of open immigration was shaped by the broader political and economic concerns of "Manifest Destiny."

Toward the end of the nineteenth century crowded cities and the decrease in available land created conditions whereby unrestricted immigration was no longer attractive. These various social concerns, coupled with a strong anti-Oriental racism in the West, led to measures to control immigration. In 1875 an act was passed prohibiting the immigration of convicts and prostitutes; and in 1882 a more sweeping law was enacted providing for a head tax and extending the classes of excluded persons. The Chinese Exclusion Act was also passed in 1882 and it marks the first instance where racist hysteria was utilized to justify immigration legislation that was actually desired because of economic reasons.

Severe economic recessions in 1883 and later in 1890 aroused more demands for immigration restriction. At this time the immigrant underwent

notable changes; Jews and people from Eastern and Southern Europe began to replace those from Northern Europe in the crowded steamships. This change in immigrant stock gave new momentum to the restrictionist movement by allowing them to harness economic crisis and bigotry to pressure for further restraints on immigration. Toward the turn of the century a rash of enactments placed further limits on immigration.

Up until the turn of the century the restrictionist movement had primarily

ionist movement wielded considerable political power and Oriental labor was effectively excluded from the Southwest.

As a result of the exclusion of Oriental labor a demand for cheap labor in the rapidly expanding fields and factories of the Southwest was created. The railroad had opened up new markets and irrigation had opened up new areas for cultivation. Both the railroad and labor-intensive agriculture created by irrigation required large amounts of cheap, seasonal labor.

Jobs held by undocumented workers are the least desirable and unattractive to American workers.

been concerned with stopping European immigration. In 1907, however, it once again focused its efforts on Oriental immigrants. Using racist arguments and motivated by an economic downturn in the West Coast, it was able to secure the exclusion of the Japanese. Thus by 1910 the historical context for Mexican immigration was set: an aggressive restrict-

Thus, American capitalists and agribusiness, faced with a strong restrictionist movement, had to seek alternative sources of cheap labor. The proximity of Mexico and the relative poverty of its people made it a logical choice from which to secure labor that would be temporary and therefore acceptable to the restrictionist movement. It is the ebb and flow of U.S.

demand for cheap labor that has constituted the underlying rationale for our immigration policy toward Mexico.

In 1917, overriding a second presidential veto, Congress enacted a law calling for a literacy test to determine admissibility for immigration. The Mexican immigrant was covered under this law. Had the act's provisions been enforced immigration from Mexico would have been negligible. In 1918, however, the Commissioner General of Immigration with the approval of the Secretary of Labor, issued an order exempting Mexican immigrants from the provisions of the 1917 act and contract labor laws. The exemption was justified as being due to a war-caused manpower shortage, but its existence continued after the termination of the war. The government's actions revealed the fundamental policy approach of the United States: the government would relax immigration laws or their enforcement when it was desirable to import Mexican workers, but it would prevent permanent settlement by enforcing these same laws when economic conditions made the Mexican worker undesirable.

THE QUOTA SYSTEM

The economic recession following the First World War caused the conditions that made the Mexican worker "undesirable." Native-born Americans were urged by political, business and labor leaders to deport the Mexican because he was the cause of their economic troubles. Efforts by government agencies and vigilantes resulted in approximately 100,000 Mexicans being forced out of the country during 1920 and 1921.

The enactment of the quota laws of 1921 and 1924 ushered in an immigration policy that was based on quantity and not quality. The national origins formula embodied in those laws effectively limited European immigration to the point where large scale immigration ceased. Although restrictionists clamored to include Mexicans



UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS: MYTH VS. FACT

"Undocumented workers take away jobs from American workers."

Fact: Undocumented workers are employed mainly in low-level jobs at low wages. Undocumented workers earn about \$2.71 an hour compared to the average U.S. worker's wage of \$4.47 an hour.

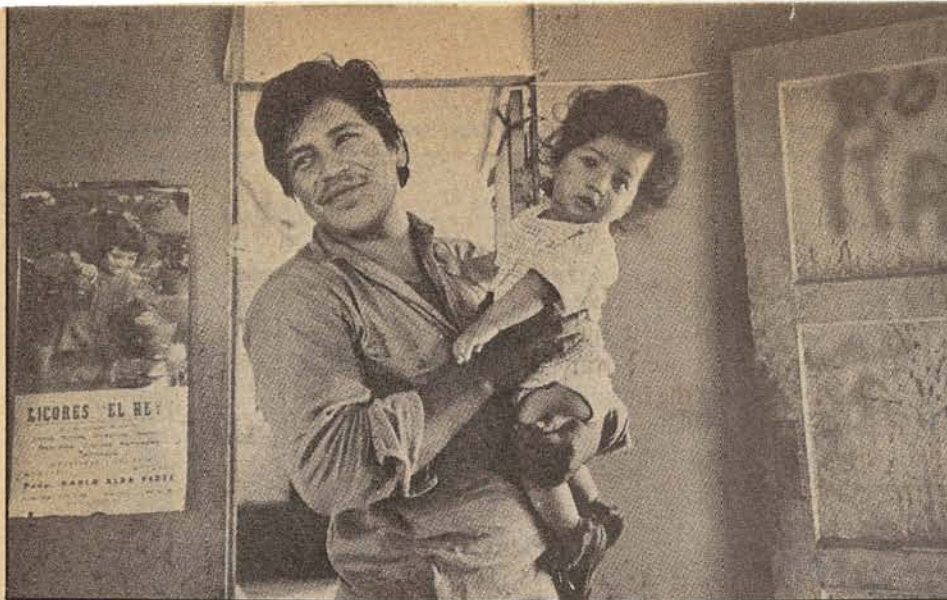
"Undocumented workers are burdening our welfare and other social service programs, draining thousands of dollars."

Fact: .5 percent have ever received welfare
27.4 percent had ever used a hospital or clinic

"They don't pay taxes."

Fact: 73 percent had federal income tax withheld from their wages;
31.5 percent filed U.S. income taxes.

Source: U.S. Labor Department Research Report (Linton 11-17-75); reprinted in "Who Are the Undocumented Workers?" available from Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), 408 Segur Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43609.



The majority of Mexicans who come to the U.S. are employed in unskilled, low-paying jobs in agriculture. Undocumented workers usually leave the country and return to Mexico after the seasonal work is through.

JUSTICE

the "illegal alien" many of the constitutional rights and legal status of aliens and citizens were given only passing consideration by the Border Patrol and other enforcement agencies. A report from a national commission set up to investigate the deportations characterized police methods as "unconstitutional, tyrannic and oppressive."

THE BRACERO PROGRAM

The mobilization and preparation for the Second World War brought renewed economic prosperity with the corresponding demand for cheap labor. As before, the demand for Mexican labor did not result in greater opportunities for permanent legal immigration. Rather, methods were devised by which Mexican workers could be imported on a legal *temporary* basis. A bilateral agreement between Mexico and the United States established the Bracero Program in 1942. Though the need for the Bracero Program was tied to the labor shortage caused by the war, the program was not ended until 1964. What was intended as an emergency program became the open highway for temporary legal immigration of Mexicans for more than two decades.

The 10-year period between 1944-54 was a time of increased illegal immi-

in the law, arguing that their inherent racial inferiority undermined immigration policy, powerful business interests and their government cohorts made sure Mexicans were exempted from coverage.

The largest admittance of Mexican immigrants into the United States occurred in the mid-1920's and there is little doubt that government incentives and business encouragements contributed greatly to this large migration. The Mexican immigrant, however, was more tolerated as a laborer than welcomed as a citizen. A prominent government commission stated, "It was evident that in the case of the Mexican,

he was less desirable as a citizen than as a laborer." The commission fully recognizing economic necessity, recommended the continued use of Mexican labor.

The Great Depression of 1929 created the political and economic climate that again made the Mexican worker undesirable. The Border Patrol, which was established in 1924, was mobilized. Existing immigration laws began to be strictly enforced. The restrictive efforts were so successful that while immigration from Mexico into the U.S. decreased, forced emigration and repatriation from the U.S. increased. In the frenzy to deport

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gration from Mexico. The same economic interests that established the Bracero Program also stimulated the immigration of undocumented workers. Businesses not covered under the program or desiring more workers than allotted under the program, actively recruited Mexican workers, encouraging them to enter the U.S. illegally. The influx of undocumented

infamous Operation Wetback was launched with military proficiency. As many as a million Mexicans living in this country were deported under varying degrees of coercion. Like prior mass deportations, the civil rights of citizen and alien alike were trampled on. From 1954 to 1964 the immigration of undocumented persons remained relatively small — this was due less to

In San Diego undocumented persons receive around \$2 million in public aid while they contribute \$48 million in tax funds.

workers in this period of rapid expansion is similar to the earlier influx of European immigrants, with the exception that the Mexican was never allowed to settle permanently and was always susceptible to deportation.

The economic downturn and rising unemployment rate after the Korean War generated new pressure to stem the "wetback invasion." In 1954, the

Operation Wetback then to the fact that business organizations secured additional labor through an expansion of the Bracero Program. Thus many of the undocumented workers that were deported were soon recruited as *braceros*.

The termination of the Bracero Program in 1964 together with the expansion in the economy caused an



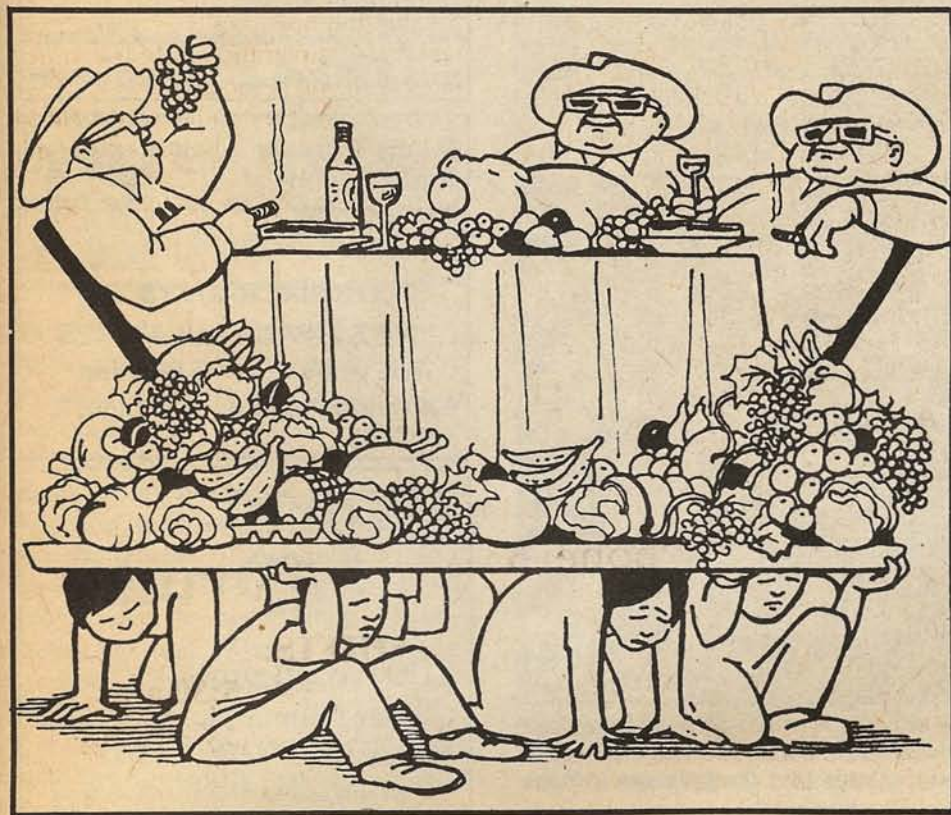
Mexican workers and their families have been accused of living "off the public dole," but an official Labor Dept. study showed that only .5 percent have ever received welfare.

increase in illegal immigration. Many of the Mexican workers recruited as *braceros* returned to the United States as undocumented workers. In this sense, the Bracero Program never ended; it simply went underground.

THE "ILLEGAL PROBLEM" MYTH VS. FACT

In the 1970's, however, a severe and prolonged economic crisis has again sparked debate on the "illegal alien question." Government agencies and business interests try to deflect attention from their policies and the resulting social problems, arguing that undocumented persons have a negative effect on our balance of payments and that they drain social welfare funds by living off the public dole. Certain unions try to explain away their failure to prevent massive unemployment by claiming that if illegal immigration were stopped the unemployment problem would disappear. Once again economic ills result in a search for a scapegoat; and who is a better scapegoat than the most exploited and vulnerable sector of the working class.

The fear caused by comments about millions of undocumented workers invading our country each year can be quickly dispelled. Instead of millions of workers accumulating each year in



JUSTICE

the U.S. they, in fact, leave the country yearly after their seasonal work is through. Research clearly indicates that Mexican migration is cyclical, with the majority of undocumented persons returning to Mexico annually.

The Mexican immigrant is a worker and his sojourn into the United States

The real cause of our unemployment problem is the government's policy of keeping four percent of the labor force out of work.

is exactly for that purpose. Far from being a parasite living off of welfare, he disproportionately contributes to the social coffers. An often overlooked fact is that undocumented persons pay taxes through automatic wage deductions, through sales tax on retail purchases, and through property tax calculated into rent payments. For example, in San Diego County research found that undocumented persons receive around \$2 million in public assistance while they contribute approximately \$48 million in tax funds.

Neither is the undocumented worker the cause of our unemployment problem. One commentator explains, "Workers cannot be displaced if they are not there," noting that jobs occupied by undocumented workers are the least desirable and thus unattractive to the native worker. Also it has been observed that undocumented workers may be actually creating employment by allowing certain business (i.e., restaurants) to remain open. It is the policy that functions on a minimum 4 percent unemployment that is the real problem confronting U.S. workers.

Today we are facing an "illegal problem" but not for the popularly perceived reasons. The real problem is that we have allowed the government and business interests to recruit workers and then make them super-exploitable by repressive immigration laws. We continue to believe the arguments that blame the victim for the crime. Only by extending the full rights of native workers to undocumented persons can their plight be remedied to the benefit of all working people. □

Jose Bracamonte is an attorney with the Legal Assistance Foundation and Chicago representative for the National Coalition On the Hannigan Case.



Protestors demonstrate against deportation and harassment of undocumented workers. The U.S. government continues to deny basic economic and civil rights to undocumented workers and their families and says that the Mexican is "less desirable as a citizen than as a laborer."

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The Fight For Isla Nena — Vieques Fishermen Demand U.S. Navy Out!

(Vieques, Puerto Rico) U.S. Navy forces regularly bomb the tiny island of Vieques, Puerto Rico. Although the Navy hasn't officially declared war against the island, for the families here it is like living in a war zone.

In 1941 the Navy took over without the permission of the people three quarters of the island — 26,000 acres — for military target practice. Sophisticated aerial bombing and sea-to-land missiles have become a way of life — and death — for the islanders. Carlos Zenon, one of the fishermen on the island working to get the Navy out, explains the dangers his people face.

"We're caught right in the middle of two bases. The one on the western part of the island has 119 demolition depots. To get to the eastern base, the

**In one month in 1978
the U.S. Navy dropped
200,000 tons of bombs
on the tiny island of
Vieques, Puerto Rico.**

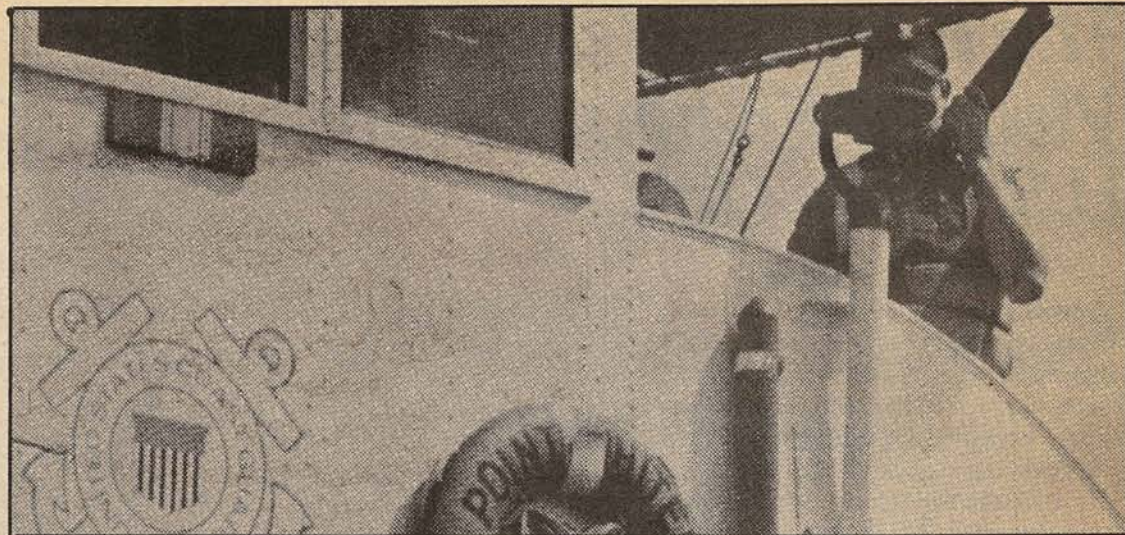
Navy has to drive through 'our' part. We're caught right in the middle as though we were living in a concentration camp.

"The bombs dropped here are the same as the ones used in Korea and Vietnam, and they're just lying around on the ground. It only takes one 50 pound bomb to shake the island. The Navy gave evidence that between February and March, 1978 they dropped 200,000 tons of bombs on the island.

"In 1956, I was with a young boy who saw something that looked like a rocket. The boy pushed it and a



U.S. Navy helicopter attempts to capsize boats of Vieques fishermen — a common form of harassment by the Navy.



weapon exploded. I was very close to him. The boy died, nothing happened to me, and three others were crippled for life."

Tragedy has become a way of life for the people of Vieques. "A year and a half ago on Blue Beach, a little girl

found some live ordnance (ammunition). An old man who was with her saw what it was and started chasing her. The little girl must have thought the old man was playing with her, so she started to run. The bombs went off. The old man lost some

fingers, and the little girl, who's only about three years old now, is practically blind. The Navy offered the girl's father \$2,000 and a job."

Not only are people's lives endangered, so is their ability to earn a living. Most of the small farms on the island are now bomb-scarred wrecks. The fishermen who depend on the waters around the island are often forced by the Navy to stay out of the waters.

"It's easy for the Navy to miss a land attack and hit the water. They kill the fish like crazy, by the thousands of pounds. A Vieques councilman took some divers down into 10, 20 and 30 feet of water. They found 100 unexploded 2,000 pound bombs. If the bombs got hit with an anchor, they could go off.

"Before the Navy came to Vieques," said Zenon, "we had a commercial sugar mill and small cattle farms. Unemployment on Vieques is now between 45 and 50 percent. My main worry is what's happening to the island's kids."

In the face of losing three-fourths of their land, losing work and losing their lives the people of Vieques want the U.S. Navy off their land completely.

For the last three years the 9,000 islanders' efforts to stop the Navy have increased. "What were the 150 fishermen to do when the Navy invited NATO forces to Vieques three years

UPDATE: VIEQUES

1898

The United States took over the country of Puerto Rico, including the tiny island of Vieques, by force and against the will of its people who were later declared to be citizens of the U.S. by Congress.

1941

The tiny island of Vieques, Puerto Rico was largely taken over by the U.S. Navy to use for massive bombing practice without the consent of the people.

1979

May 21, hundreds of protesters demonstrated in Vieques as part of their continuing campaign demanding that the U.S. Navy

withdraw completely from their island. Twenty-one were arrested, including the Catholic Bishop Monsignor Antuilio Parrilla who was recently sentenced to one year's probation and a \$500 fine for "trespassing." The cases of the Vieques 21 continue, as their cause is drawing international attention.

August 15, the United Nations Decolonization Committee passed a resolution condemning U.S. Naval presence in Vieques and demanding "that the armed forces of the United States definitively cease its operations in the municipality of Vieques, so that it may permit the people of that island to live in peace in their own territory and to fully enjoy the product of the exploitation of natural resources from the land and sea to its own benefit."



Clockwise beginning on opposite page: Carlos Zenon, President of the Vieques Fishermen's Association; member of the U.S. Coast Guard approaching a fishing boat; Bishop Antulio Parilla, jailed and fined for his protest activities against the Navy; U.S. military attacking fishermen and supporters; bomb commonly found on the island.

All Photos By CLARIDAD



ago, and then restricted the use of the waters around the island?" Zenon asked.

"One morning a new ship came towards Vieques. It started bombing the area waters at 7 in the morning. By 10 I said to my family and the other fishermen, 'This bombing isn't going to stop. I never heard anything like it before.'

"So I just jumped into my boat, got into the waters and met up with the U.S.S. Dewey. The bombing was so loud that I thought my head would explode. I maneuvered right in front of

the cannon and the firing stopped."

The islanders have challenged the Navy on land and in the waters refusing to stop their fishing and often bringing the Navy's bombings to a temporary halt.

"Most of our actions are direct responses to something the Navy has done. The Navy destroys our reefs, the fish. We're forced to act. We know 99 percent of the time what the Navy's next move is going to be. Then it's up to us to decide whether we move by land or by water. I recently heard that soon we'll be given only four hours

notice of naval target practice. You see, that's the Navy's way of fighting back. It's true, it'll be harder for us to get together, but we'll do so anyway.

"People here are really suffering. People have been abused by naval ships and marines for a long time. They saw that the Navy had to go, and once they made that decision, no one has backed away from our commitment to get the Navy out of Vieques." □

Portions of this article from Liberation News Service (LNS).

Fidel Castro At The U.N.



**Excerpts From the
Address by Dr. Fidel Castro,
President of the Government
Of Cuba and Chairman of the
Movement of Non-Aligned
Countries to the 34th
Session of the U.N. General
Assembly.**

As a special service to our readers KEEP STRONG presents excerpts from the 90-minute report to the U.N. General Assembly by Fidel Castro on the 6th summit conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held in September of this year. This report was not made available by most of the U.S. press. Our excerpts are about one of the most important topics of the Conference of 95 countries — the present unjust world economic system. (We have added subheadings only.)

The Injustices Of The World Economic Situation Must Be Ended

Mr. Chairman, at the beginning of their analysis of world economic problems, the Heads of State or Government concluded that "the struggle to eliminate the injustices of the existing international economic system and to establish the New International Economic Order is an integral part of the people's struggle for political, economic, cultural and social liberation."

It is not necessary to go into how profoundly unjust and incompatible with the development of the underdeveloped countries the existing international economic system is. The figures are already so well known that it is unnecessary for us to repeat them here. There are discussions on whether there are only 400 million undernourished people in the world or whether the figure has once more risen to 450 million as certain international documents state. Even 400 million hungry

men and women constitute too heavy a charge.

Trade Between Nations Is Unequal

We confirmed that the unequal exchange in international economic relations,...an essential characteristic of the system, has become, if possible, even more unequal. Whereas the prices of the manufactured goods, capital goods, food-stuffs and services we import from developed countries are constantly rising, the prices of the primary products we export are not — and, in addition, are subject to constant fluctuation.

It may be said that there is some industrial expansion, but it does not take place at the required rate or in the key industries of industrial economy....The world redistribution of industry, called industrial redeployment, should not consist of a new confirmation of the deep economic inequalities that emerged in the colonial era of the 19th

century. At that time, we were condemned to be producers of raw materials and cheap agricultural products. Now, an effort is being made to use our countries' abundant labor and starvation wages and to transfer obsolete and polluting industries to developing countries. We categorically reject this.

Distorted Industrialization Creates More Dependency

Developed market economy countries today absorb more than 85 percent of the world's manufactured goods, including those whose industrial production requires the highest technology. They also control over 83 percent of all industrial exports. Twenty-six percent of those exports go to developing countries whose markets they monopolize. The most serious aspect of this dependent structure is that our imports...are manufactured according to the demands...and technology of the most developed industrial countries and the patterns of consumer society, which are introduced through the chinks of our trade, contaminating our own societies and thus adding a new element to the already permanent structural crisis.

The Gap Between Nations Widens

The result of all this...is that the gap between the developed and developing countries not only persists but has substantially increased.

A recent report put out by the World Bank shows a worse perspective. It says that, by the year 2,000, some 600 million people may still be submerged in absolute poverty.

The Debt Trap Strangles Poor Countries

We noted that, while the inequality of international economic relations has increased the developing countries' accumulated foreign debt — to over \$300 billion — the international financial bodies and private banks had raised their interest rates and imposed short

terms of loan (repayment), thus strangling the developing countries financially.

...It is estimated that around \$40 billion a year goes to servicing this foreign debt (interest payments) — more than 20 percent of their exports. Moreover, average per capita income in the developed countries is now 14 times greater than in the underdeveloped countries. This situation is intolerable.

Rape By Multinational Corporations

No review of the main problems that affect the developing countries in terms of the world economy would be complete without an analysis of the transnational corporations. Once again, the policies and practices of transnational corporations were declared unacceptable. It was charged that, in their desire for profits, they exhaust the resources, distort the economies and infringe the sovereignty of developing countries;...and frequently resort to bribery, corruption and other undesirable practices through which they seek to and do subordinate the developing countries to the industrialized countries.

Our Objectives

The first fundamental objective in our struggle consists of reducing and finally eliminating the unequal exchange that prevails today and that makes international trade a useful vehicle for the further plundering of our wealth. Today, the product of one hour's work in the developed countries is exchanged for the product of ten hours' work in the underdeveloped countries.

But even if all these measures were implemented and the mistakes and evils of the present system of international relations were rectified the developing countries would still lack one decisive element: external financing.

In view of this, the developing countries require truly enormous invest-

ment — primarily, and with practically no exception, in those branches of production that yield low profits and, therefore, do not appeal to private foreign lenders and investors.

The Responsibility Of The Developed Countries

On more than one occasion, it has been said that we were forced into underdevelopment by colonization and imperialist neo-colonization....Therefore, the task of helping us to emerge from underdevelopment is, first of all, a historic and moral obligation of those who benefited from the plunder of our wealth and the exploitation of our men and women for decades and for centuries. But, at the same time, it is the task of mankind as a whole.

In addition to the resources that have already been mobilized, we must discuss and determine how, from the onset of the next development decade, the additional contribution of no less than \$300 billion be invested in the underdeveloped countries...to be made in yearly installments of at least \$25 billion, right from the beginning. This should be in the forms of donations and long-term, low-interest soft credit rates.

Human Needs — Not Arms

It is absolutely necessary to mobilize these additional funds as a contribution of the developed world and of other countries with resources to the underdeveloped world during the next 10 years. If we want peace, these resources will be required. If there are no resources for development, there will be no peace. Some may think this is asking too much, but I think it is still a modest figure....World military expenditures amount to more than \$300 billion a year. This same could build 600,000 schools, with a capacity for 400 million children; or 60 million comfortable homes, for 300 million people; or 30,000 hospitals, with 18 million beds; or 20,000 factories, with jobs for more than 20 million workers; or an irrigation system for 150 million

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hectares of land — that, with the application of technology, could feed a billion people. Mankind wastes this much every year on military spending.

The United States alone will spend six times this much on military activities between 1980 and 1990.

For ten years of development, we are requesting less than what is spent in a single year by the Ministries of War....

The tremendous responsibility of studying, mobilizing and distributing the flow of these resources should be entrusted to the United Nations. The funds should be administered by the international community itself, in conditions of absolute equality for all countries....

This is a project that will benefit all nations — not just the developing countries.

The Rights Of Humanity

Mr. Chairman and distinguished representatives, frequent mention is made of human rights; but mention should be made of the rights of mankind.

Why should some people go barefooted so that others may ride in expensive cars? Why should some live only 35 years so that others may live 70? Why should some be miserably

poor so that others may be exaggeratedly rich?

I speak on behalf of the world's children who don't even have a piece of bread; I speak on behalf of the sick who have no medicine; I speak on behalf of those who have been denied the right to life and human dignity.

Some countries are on the sea; others aren't. Some have energy resources; others don't. Some possess abundant lands in which to produce food-stuffs; others don't. Some are so glutted with machinery and factories that you can't even breathe the air of their poisoned atmosphere; others have only their emaciated arms with which to earn their bread.

In short, some countries possess abundant resources, while others have nothing. What is their fate? To starve? To remain poor forever? What is civilization for, then? What is man's conscience for?... You cannot speak of peace on behalf of the tens of millions of human beings all over the world who are starving to death or dying of curable diseases. You cannot speak of peace on behalf of 900 million illiterates.

The rich countries' exploitation of the poor countries should cease.

I know that there are exploiters and

exploited in many poor countries, as well.

I address the rich nations, asking them to contribute. I address the poor countries, asking them to distribute.

Enough of words! We need deeds.... We need concrete action....

The sound of weapons, threatening language and arrogance in the international scene must cease.... Bombs may kill the hungry, the sick and the ignorant, but they cannot kill hunger, disease and ignorance. Nor can they kill the righteous rebellion of the people....

Let us say farewell to arms, and let us dedicate ourselves in a civilized manner to the most pressing problems of our times...it is the basic premise for human survival.

Thank you very much. □

COMPLETE TEXT AVAILABLE

For the complete text of Fidel Castro's address before the U.N. Oct. 12, 1979, send stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

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APOCALYPSE NOW

by Randy Saltz

A Vietnam Veteran takes a hard look at Hollywood's newest film on the War, remembers the horrors and wonders why we are asked "to put it behind us..."

Randy Saltz was a paratrooper in Vietnam from November 1967 to July 1970. He now lives and works in New York City. Below he discusses some of his impressions of the long-awaited "Apocalypse Now."

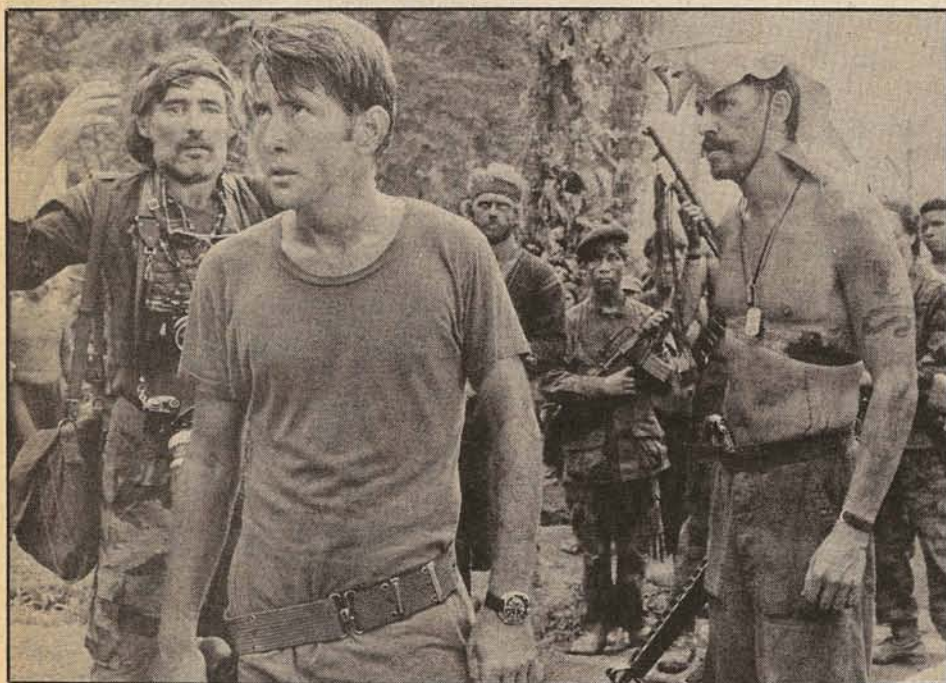
When I grew up and realized that I didn't (and still don't) know about U.S. history, I always thought it was my fault. I didn't do my homework, didn't pay attention and didn't ask questions.

So it was my fault. The truth is that the textbooks, the movies, the TV, the word-of-mouth macho hero images shaped me and it equalled a set-up. There's got to be a certain kind of mentality among the people before they'll go out and fight a war.

Look at the Civil War. In the North if you were rich, you didn't have to fight; you paid for someone to take your place. In World War II, everybody ran to sign up to fight against the Nazis. They were psyched. It didn't matter that World War I vets were shot



Top: Battle scene — “When it came down, all you had was your people...your partners and your team and you didn’t see Black or White.” **Bottom:** A crazed freelance photographer (Dennis Hopper) left; Capt. Willard (Martin Sheen), foreground; and Chef (Frederic Forrest) survey a temple guarded by local tribesmen.



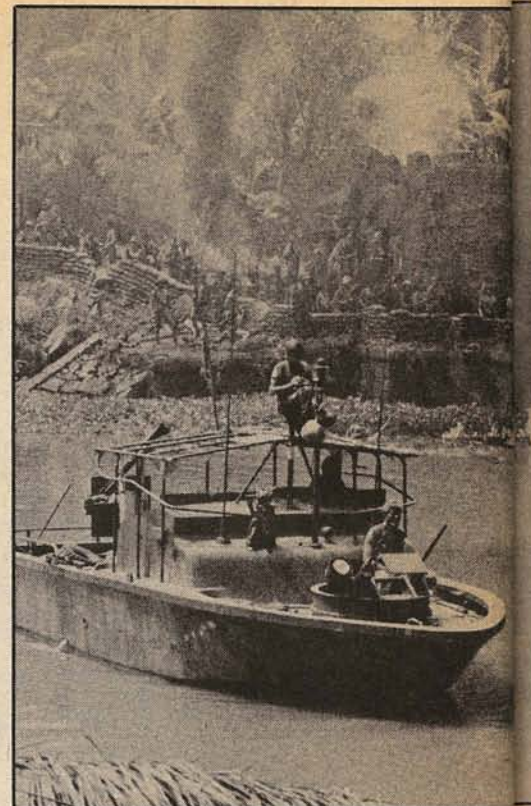
and gassed when they went to get their benefits. During Vietnam no one really knew what was going down.

No brother out of any neighborhood that I know will go and fight someone else who is getting ripped off like he is — no rights, no home, no job, no future. He’s just not going to do it, if he knows what’s really happening.

With the exception of CIA and Green Beret assassination teams, kill-

ing was done for and in self-defense with survival and response as the basic instinct. Field troops were conditioned by fear as much as anything else.

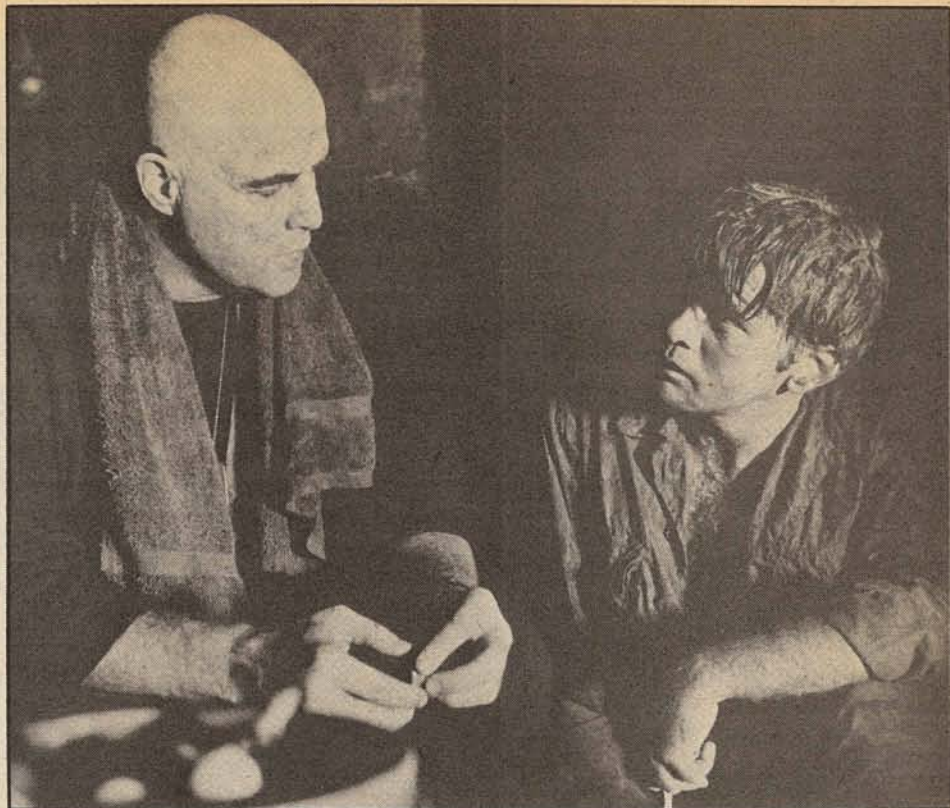
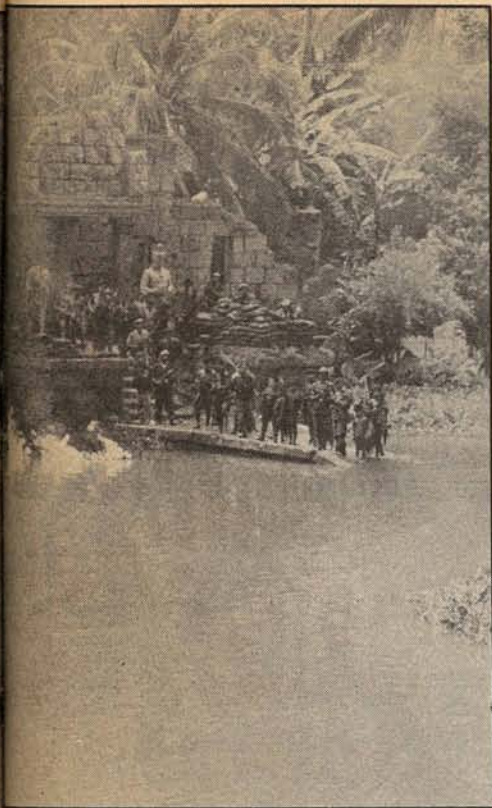
There’s a non-truth about this whole thing. At any given time, in Vietnam, with half a million Americans there and ten men in the rear for every one in the field, and half of every combat unit on guard detail and thousands on leave (“R and R”) or hospitalized....How



many men were actually in the bush on a given day? Five maybe ten thousand. The killing and mass destruction was a technological thing. From a mile up you can’t see the babies when the bombs drop. All you can catch is the response on the heat sensors or your microphones....

The boat crew that carried Willard (Martin Sheen) up the river, meant something to me. Blacks, Whites, street kids, surfers, pill heads, beer drinkers, short timers and lifers... there’s something to all that. When it came down, all you had was your people. Not mom or dad or your high school gym coach, but your partners and your team and you didn’t see Black or White. All you knew was your team — who was a shithead, who was functional, who copped out and who was with you. Your chances of survival were based on how hard you fought and kicked ass back. That’s no sick or dishonorable thing.

Apocalypse Now touched on respecting the Vietnamese but not enough. It had an aspect of reality. Charlie doesn’t get a playgirl show, no bunnies. It was his land. His only ticket home is to win. He didn’t have any



The mysterious jungle temple of Colonel Kurtz — “The river in the film is used to portray a soldier’s search through life and the river is still running for thousands of Vietnam Veterans.” Right: Col. Kurtz (Marlon Brando) discusses philosophies with Captain Willard (Martin Sheen).

leave time or “R and R.” I mean, it was an occupying force. I don’t know anybody who would like to see the U.S.A. being invaded. And that wasn’t stressed in the movie.

There was a lot of truth to what Marlon Brando talked about towards the end of the film. He described Charlie torturing little kids in a village. He said then he realized what kind of enemy he and America were up against. He decided he’d have to get as crazy as them to fight them effectively. He said he was labeled a criminal when he tried to fight like the Vietnamese without emotion. That was good.

It was true that it wasn’t healthy for village heads, chiefs, etc. and their families to be relating to the United States. It’s like a snitch in jail or a stoolie on the corner. You can’t kiss them. You got to show the rest of the people that it isn’t healthy. If you can’t relate to the program which was self-determination, and won’t change, then you got to go. If by some standard the Vietnamese were extreme, then the condition of war called for extreme

measures.

Coppola uses the river to portray a soldier’s search through life. Willard (Martin Sheen) had to travel several hundred miles up the river to catch up with Kurtz (Marlon Brando) so he could kill him. In a sense, we all have rivers to travel up and all kinds of shit to deal with along the way. But the war was as ugly at home as it was in Vietnam. And the river is still running for thousands of Vietnam veterans.

Apocalypse Now is effective in some places (technically); truthful in others. But it’s not logical or sensible that we should be paying \$5 to see a movie about the horrors of war so we can understand it and “put it behind us” as producer Coppola wants us to. We have young people coming up now who don’t know the truth about the Vietnam war, the whys, the history, what we did to those people and ourselves. Sooner or later, if someone doesn’t put these truths out so our children can understand them, we’ll do it again and again. □

Randy Saltz is an East Coast correspondent for KEEP STRONG.



Robert DuVall (above) plays the war-loving Col. Kilgore in “Apocalypse Now.”

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To My Young Friends In Uptown

I know you
And you know me.
In a lot of ways
You are me.
I have seen the same things
You have.
Felt the same hurts.
Slept in the same rot holes.
I have said the same rhyme
You are saying,
"Live fast,
Love hard
And die young."
But it never gets you anywhere
But in hell.
Young friends look around.

Look up and down.
Slow down for one minute and
Look at yourself.
Ask, "Who am I?" "What am I?"
But most of all, ask yourself,
"Where am I?"
Then you realize
That living fast,
Loving hard
And dying young
Is a bunch of nonsense.
I know.
I used to be a young man
In Uptown

Bob Hall

About The Back Cover

"Morey Machine Shop," is the plant where artist Ralph Fasanella worked for seven years during the 1950's. Having been a staff organizer with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, (UE), in the early 40's Ralph Fasanella was soon elected steward. At the time he was working as a "washer" at 90 cents an hour. But he was too effective dealing with grievances on the shop floor so the company put him in the tool crib. But at the tool crib, "I got to talk to everybody," so eventually they moved him to

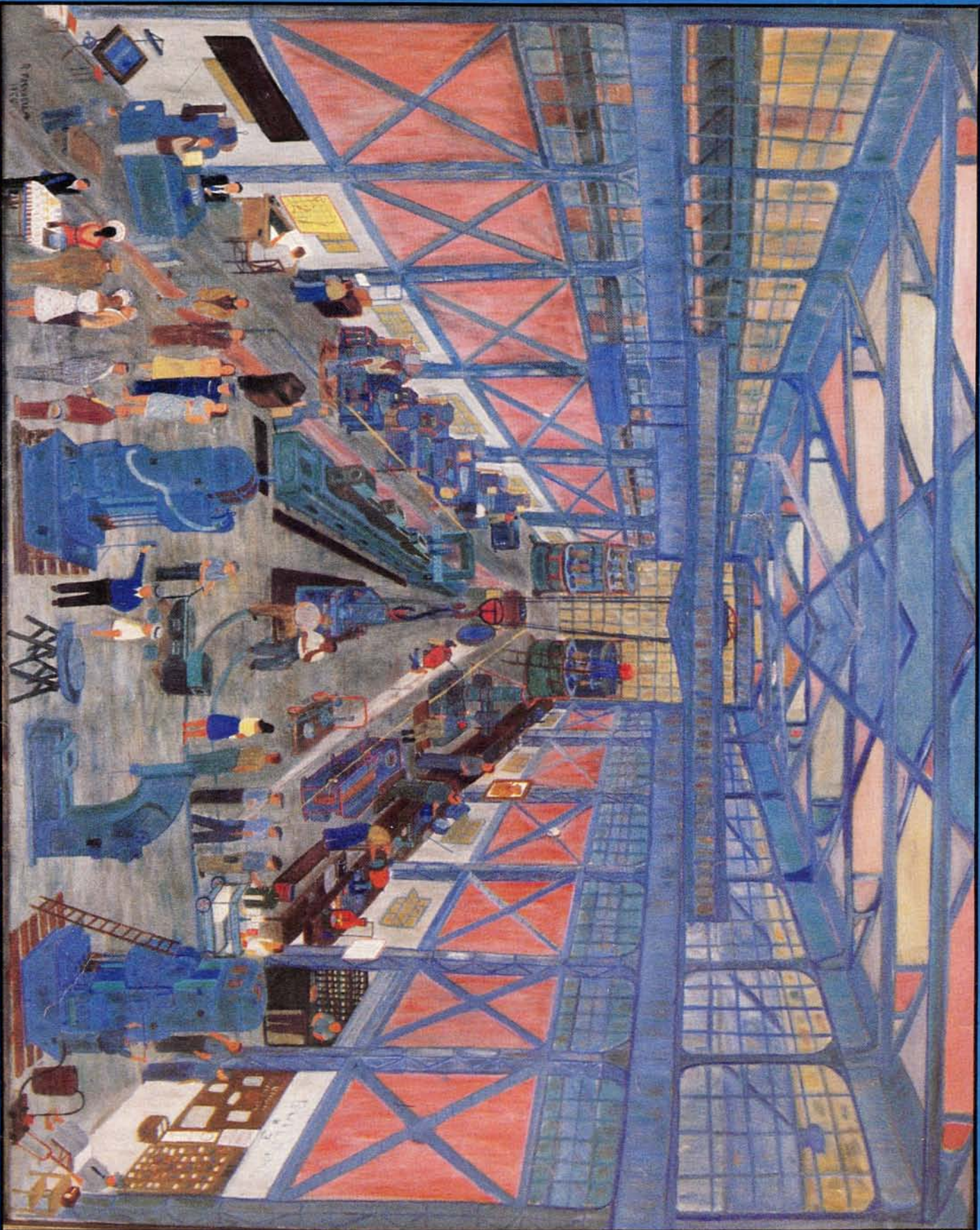
the bench where he tooled machine parts to close tolerances.

Many of Mr. Fasanella's paintings, featuring some of his recent works on the Lawrence Mill Strike of 1912 are now on display at the Columbia College Art Gallery, 600 S. Michigan Ave. (open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., until November 24th)

In addition a full range of his paintings and a story of his life, is available in the book *Fasanella's City*, written by Patrick Watson and published by Alfred A. Knopf.

Be sure to read more about Ralph Fasanella in this month's issue on page 47.

This month's Community Art Series is sponsored by: United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, District Council II; Actors Equity Association; and Jack Spiegel of the United Shoeworkers Union, Joint Council No. 25



"Morey Machine Shop"

Oil Painting by Ralph Fasanella, 1953